issue 1 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

the Spartana

So far, so good

The varsity football team and Charles Seals (11) are undefeated. Tonight they play their conference opener against the East Noble Knights. see page 1B

Friday, September 1, 2006

photo Josh Hatcher

Painted seniors Joey Parker, Bob Rodenbeck, Nick Wirtner, David Blake, Josh Butcher, and Robert Titcomb showing their school spirit at the game against Huntington North.

SPIRIT STUDY

School spirit examined: does school lack enthusiasm?

By Erin Quinn
Writer

graphic larry buchanan

"We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?"

School spirit is a combination of enthusiastic loyalty, pride, and widespread participation. Through pep rallies and supportive crowds, spirit creates the positive energy and hope for success that sets one school apart from another.

But how much school spirit do the students of Homestead have?

"As a whole, I would probably rate [the spirit of the students] as a seven out of ten," cheerleader Katie Romelfanger (12) said.

"It's there, but not overwhelming. The majority of students aren't really affected by pep sessions or anything like that."

In past years, the school has had one of the best overall activities programs in the Northeast Hoosier Conference. The proof hangs with the 16 patches in the athletic office, ranging from 1989 when the conference was formed, to the most recent school year. The quality of Spartan athletics is undeniable; almost all teams have winning records and are immensely successful, and many, such as both girls and boys swimming, are highly competitive at the state level.

So why does it seems as if school spirit is lacking? By rummaging through last year's boys and girls basketball gate receipts, athletic director John Ankenbruck discovered that ticket profits from boys' games (over $14,000) were more than double those from girl's games (close to $6,000).

More surprising, however, was that when the boys played Concordia at home, close to $4,000 in tickets were sold. But when the girls played Concordia at home, tickets accounted for barely $500.

Ticket sales exclude those who used their athletic passes, and as a head count is not taken, it is impossible to determine the actual number of people sitting in the stands.

However, 100 tickets compared to 800 tickets hints that boys teams are more widely supported than girls teams, suggesting a breakdown of level support to all teams. But even at the more popular events, students sideline their enthusiasm.

"[Students] attend a lot of the sports events, especially football games, to socialize instead

> "...when the boys [basketball team] played Concordia at home, close to $4,000 in tickets were sold. But when the girls played Concordia at home, tickets amounted to barely $500."

BRIEFS

PRINCIPAL SEARCH CONTINUES

Principal Dianne Moake will remain in her position at least through the end of the semester. BWP Associates, a national search consultant has been hired by SACS to assist in the selection process. Several interviews have already been carried out on qualified candidates but none of these were selected by the school board. Several focus groups will be held on Monday, Sept. 11 in order to determine some of the qualities the search firm should look for in candidates.

SECURITY CAMERAS INSTALLED

In an effort to promote safety and cleanliness, extra cameras have been installed inside the cafeteria. Additional cameras have also been added to the expanded parking lots. Assistant Principal Steve Johnson believes that these cameras will help protect the students during the day and while extra-curricular activities are taking place. SACS invested $28,846 to install the new cameras.

TARDY POLICY STRENGTHENED

As part of the handbook changes proposed late last year, students who are more than five minutes late to a class will no longer be counted tardy, but truant instead. This rule also applies to first period; students who arrive after five minutes without a parent note or excuse will also be counted truant. The administration put the change in place due to the number of students abusing the tardy policy last year by wasting extra time in the hallways when already tardy.

PAGE 2A, News : Centerpoint to be replaced by PowerSchool
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial : The debut of "Positively Speaking" by Dillon Kimmel
PAGE 4A, Life: Looking back on the Freshmen Academy, one year later
PAGE 5A, Life: Foreign Exchange students in our midst
PAGE 6A, Life: The band prepares for its first competition of the season
PAGE 7A, Life: Movie reviews by Chris Purdy: "Little Miss Sunshine"
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: A closer look at the fastest student on campus: Gabe Cerny
PAGE 1B, Sports: Varsity football undefeated after two games for first time in three seasons
PAGE 2B, Sports: Boys soccer sustains injuries, starts season 0-2 before rebounding against Columbia City
PAGE 3B, Sports: Al Jennings (9) emerges as valuable asset to golf team
PAGE 4B, Sports: Cross country looks to steal spotlight from unsuspecting local competition

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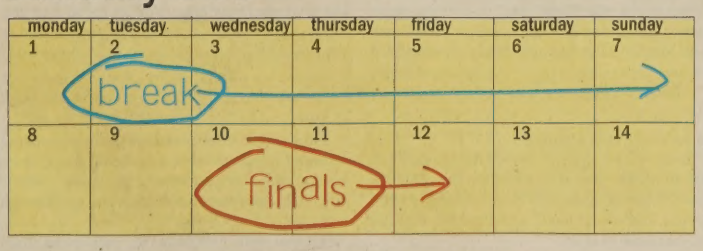


Calendar dilemma

With finals the week students return from winter break, the Spartana investigates the school calendar

By Ashley Hockney and Megan McArdle
Writers

A shortened summer, new school calendar, and final exams placed one week after winter break have left some students wondering: why the change? The newly revised 2006-2007 calendar includes many changes to the previous year's schedule, most notably the early end to summer break and the placement of finals two days after winter break. Major changes also include added snow days, finals that are split over Memorial Day weekend, and the placement of spring break during the Holy week.

"We are now starting earlier and adding a

See SCHEDULE on page 2A

Revised wellness policy stresses small portions, healthier food choices

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

In compliance with state and federal regulations, Indiana school districts have been required to adopt wellness policies. Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is just one district that has adopted stricter and more health-conscious health guidelines for this school year.

The state and local governments, in an effort to reduce obesity among children, mandated that school districts across the nation take a stricter approach to health in their districts. The districts in Indiana were given a July 1 deadline to comply with the guidelines and establish a new policy.

The school board established a committee which went over the current policy and made necessary changes. The Local Wellness Policy #6100 was approved by the school board on May 16.

See WELLNESS on page 2A

DRUG DOG EFFORTS RESULT IN ARREST

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

Rack one up on the kennel wall; a student was arrested Wednesday for possession of drug paraphernalia. Hunter's nose led Student Resource Officer (SRO) AJ Pape to a car in the parking lot where drugs were found. Administrators would not comment further. The arrest marked Hunter's tenth day in service.

Hunter's first catch follows a good deal of media coverage, both in print and on local television. The Labrador, a "passive drug dog" joined the school this year as the state's first full-time drug dog stationed in a public high school.

Pape presented the notion of a full-time police dog to the school board in March to be implemented with the new random drug testing policy. After approval from the board, Pape spent three months training the Lab, a former hunting dog donated to the Allen County Sheriff's department. Hunter went through nine weeks of full time canine training with Pape and a master trainer. This was the first time Pape had trained a dog.

"It was a lot of work," Pape said. "The dog learns very easily, but the training takes a long time."

While Hunter lives with Pape as a house pet, Hunter's service costs the district $693 per year. The Labrador represents an initial investment of $5,550. The sheriff's department provided funding for Hunter's training.

So far, Pape said that there have been only positive reactions to Hunter's addition. "Parents, students, the media, everyone is all pro," Pape said. "Hunter is a necessity due to the deterrent factor. We had eight marijuana arrests last year and we want that number to be zero. With Hunter, kids will realize that they shouldn't bring [drugs] to school, this is a learning environment."

photo Josh Hatcher

Hunter posing for the press after a long day on the job. He makes one or two searches each day.

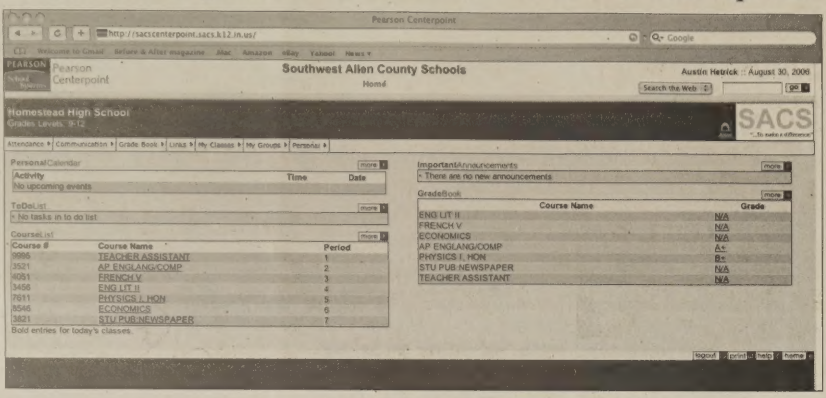
While Pape and school administrators feel that it is necessary to have a drug dog work full-time

See ARREST on page 2A

Centerpoint out, PowerSchool in

Centerpoint failure prompts school system to take action, PowerSchool will replace

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor



The school district will change its Student Information System (SIS) at the semester from Centerpoint to PowerSchool. Both programs allow students and parents to view grades from the district's website, and store a wealth of information on students for administrators and teachers. PowerSchool will also be used to schedule classes for the 2007-2008 school year.

"Hopefully [PowerSchool] will continue to make accessibility to grades a non-issue," Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith said. "[Easy access to grades] was part of the reason Centerpoint was chosen, and this program will continue to meet that goal."

PowerSchool is similar in features to Centerpoint. The program is web-based, and is known for its ease of use. Administrators at Kokomo High School, who scheduled with the program last year, feel that the program was a worthy investment.

SACS will pay $140,440 for PowerSchool. The software is the most popular SIS in the nation, and is used by 80 percent of the school districts in Indiana. The cost itself is 56 percent less than the face value of the software, a discount granted to SACS because of it's involvement with Centerpoint.

Although the district used Centerpoint all of last year, because of the difficulties with the program, SACS never paid for it. The only funds paid were $2,500 spent to send four administrators to Pearson headquarters in Arizona in an attempt to expedite the scheduling process.

Many involved with the program had strong opinions while Centerpoint was the district's SIS.

"For me, half the time it just didn't work last year," Melissa Gillum (12) said. "I liked Arena scheduling a lot better because I had a lot more choices."

Looking back on the program, physics teacher Stanley Crum had mixed feelings.

"I have mixed feelings about [Centerpoint]," Crum said. "I think it did a lot to get students accountable for their work. While some parts were difficult, as a teacher I don't view it as a mistake, I think it really does contribute to the effort students put out."

Making the Cut: Barely

Just days before the school's doors were set to open to students, teachers were still being asked to change their schedules. While the master schedule had been set for over a month, administrators were still frantically trying to finalize the details of individual classes at the last possible moment.

"The teachers have been very understanding and very flexible because their schedules were changing right up to the day before school started," Lake said.

Despite the close call, thanks to hours of extra time put into the schedule over the summer, Quigley and Lake can claim some measure of success.

"To me, the bottom line is that on that first day, the classes were pretty well balanced, and things seemed to run pretty smoothly," Quigley said.

Administrators point to the attitude of the building in general as responsible for much of the success.

"You know, students didn't get to pick teachers this year, and we had hoped that they would," Quigley said. "But there really was not a lot of whining and complaining, they reacted very much like a family: they understand the trouble we [were] going through."

> *"Hopefully [PowerSchool] will continue to make accessibility to grades a non-issue. [Easy access to grades] was part of the reason Centerpoint was chosen, and this program will continue to meet that goal."*
> Dr. Brian Smith
> Superintendent

The trouble with Centerpoint consumed much of the summer for Quigley, Lake, and counselors from across the district who were called in to help clean up the nightmare that scheduling presented.

When the schedule was at last finalized in late June (with as many students had been automatically scheduled into their classes as possible,) there still remained some 250 students who would have to meet with counselors to clear up conflicts in their schedule. Most of these students were freshmen and seniors whose schedules are more difficult to fit within the grid of classes.

"I think the counselors worked their tails off to get those conflicts resolved," Lake said.

This year marked the first time the school attempted to schedule with an automated system. Previously, counselors had relied on a complicated but reliable format called "Arena Scheduling" where students would resolve the conflicts in their schedule prior to turning it in to a counselor. It allowed students to choose their own teachers, plan which lunch they wished to eat, and coordinate classes with friends if they wanted to.

"I think it was a bummer that my class had to schedule with Centerpoint, but I think the counselors handled it as well as they could," Caitlin Ryan (12) said.

"Looking back on this year, it was a lot more work than it usually is," Quigley said.

Centerpoint was used in several other schools across the state, including Center Grove High School near Indianapolis.

That school experienced similar difficulties when it came to scheduling. While Quigley and Lake managed to successfully schedule using Centerpoint, they don't regret the decision to use the program. Then again, it's not an experience they hope to repeat.

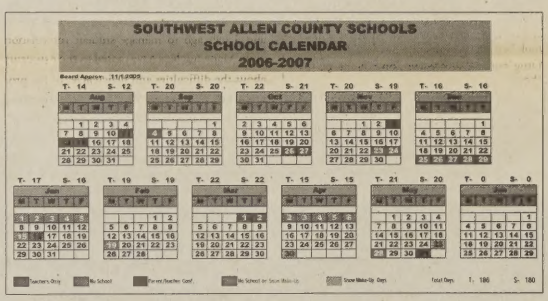
"Was it a mistake? I don't think so," Lake said. "I think we did what we had to do to make the system work…that said, are we glad to see Centerpoint go? Yes."

the Spartana
have a comment about a story?
need to check the score of last nights game?
we are now online.
go to the Homestead website and find our link.
full length articles, photo galleries, and more.

Schedule, continued from 1

couple of additional snow make-up days during the school year to help meet our scheduled last day of school," Jim Coplen, district business manager, said.

In the past, school has been extended into early June due to snow cancellations that added to an already late ending date. Because of the earlier starting date, Southwest Allen County Schools' (SACS) students will finish school on Wednesday, May 30. This year, the school board deemed it necessary to accommodate the risk of cancellation with the extra snow days. SACS' schedule is different from most of the other local districts.



Northwest Allen County School students began school last Tuesday, and will conclude on June 2. Fort Wayne Community Schools resumed last Monday and are scheduled to end on June 1. The most visible change affecting students and teachers is the placement of final exams two days after the conclusion of winter break. Some students disagree with the scheduling of the finals.

"The placement of finals isn't good, now I have to spend my winter break studying, and it kind of ruins the holiday," Sarah Antrobus (11) said.

Teachers are also facing the consequences of the newly revised schedule.

"It will be hard to review all of the information in two days, especially with the knowledge that many students won't study over break," math teacher Diane Partee said.

"I think it's lame that the school board left [finals] right after break," Alex Defreeuw (10) said.

In the past students and staff have observed the Catholic holiday Good Friday with a scheduled break from school in addition to spring break. This year the two are combined.

"Spring break has traditionally fallen on the first full week of April," Coplen said. "We also try to make sure it is the same week as the other Allen County school districts because we have many staff members who have family members involved with those districts."

Another change is the placement of the end of end of the year finals. End of the year finals are now scheduled over the holiday of Memorial Day, May 28. The first two finals are scheduled for Friday and the remaining exams will take place on the Tuesday and Wednesday following a three day weekend.

"It's nice taking a break and it relives a lot of pressure," Antrobus said.

Because the school board does not discuss calendars every year, the current schedule will likely be in place for a least another school year.

"The school calendar is reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees every couple of years, but there are many opportunities for staff to give input into the calendar before [it's] is presented to the Board of Trustees for approval," Coplen said.

Arrest, continued from 1

in school, student-opinion varies.

"I don't really think a drug dog is required," Francesca Cardillo (12) said. "With the addition of random drug testing in the last year, I suspect that's probably taken care of a decent chunk of the drug users at Homestead, making a drug dog more of an extra precaution than a necessity. However, I don't have a problem with the school funding the program."

The drug dog program is new to the district but is also new in the state, as no other school systems have such a program.

Some school systems across the country are able to afford their own full-time dog, but because of the expense, very few have chosen this option. The school board approved the dog late last year unanimously.

Chemistry teacher John Seibert is another new addition to Homestead this year. Siebert previously taught chemistry at South Side High School. Compared with South Side's policies, he thinks Homestead's are very thorough.

"Other than having teachers go through a drug screening program when first being hired, there were no other drug screening programs," Seibert said. "The students did not have to go through any type of drug testing."

Hunter will continue to police the halls throughout the school year. At the end of the year, the school board will review Hunter's performance and judge whether to keep the drug dog. There is no contract with the school, although Pape has a three-year commitment.

10th Annual AIDS Walk and Festival
Sunday, September 10
Lawton Park 11:30 AM to 4 PM
5K Walk, begins at 2 PM
Pick up a pledge sheet in Room 611 or go online at www.aidsfortwayne.org and register with TEAM HOMESTEAD.
Phone: 260 744-1144
www.aidsfortwayne.org

Wellness, continued from 1

SACS will now make available portion sizes for all foods more than 210 calories. Chips, crackers, and cereal can't exceed 1.75 ounces, while cookies and cereal servings cannot exceed two ounces. Also, pastries, muffins, donuts, and all frozen desserts cannot exceed three ounces. The limit for non-frozen yogurt is eight ounces.

Additional SACS guidelines for the lunchroom include the following: a daily fruit choice with at least one fresh fruit each week, packaged and unpackaged food must be baked and not fried, a daily variety of milk, including fat-free, low fat, flavored and unflavored, a daily choice of salad at the high school and middle school, and a weekly offering of vegetables.

SACS is also stressing the consumption of "Better Choice Foods." A Better Choice Food is defined as containing no more than 30 percent of calories from fat, no more than 10 percent of calories from saturated fat, no more than 35 percent of food weight from sugars, and not weighing more than 210 calories. At least 50 percent of all food items available for sale in district schools or on school grounds must qualify as Better Choice Foods. The same 50 percent rule applies to all beverages sold on school grounds.

Wellness guidelines that already exist will not be affected. Pop, fruit punch, coffee, and tea will not be served in any Indiana school cafeteria. Vending machines are to be removed from every elementary school and they are to be remained turned off in middle schools and high schools during school hours.

Another way the wellness policy will affect students is through the operation of the back room, which, for years, has sold candy during all lunch mods. Student government heads the back room, and several student government members are dispatched to work in it on a daily basis.

However, this year the room has remained closed. The delay is due to Galen Harden (12) and the rest of the student government awaiting word from the local Health Department on what types of food they will be allowed to sell, and how large the serving sizes are allowed to be.

"It's possible that we will be limited in the sizes of the food, but as for the variety, it shouldn't be affected," Harden said. .

To prepare for possible changes, student government is looking into what it can do to make the back room more health-conscious to comply with the "Better Choice Foods" regulation.

"We're looking into the new health codes. We continue to look into better choices for foods as well as different kinds of things to sell during lunchtime…we simply won't know much until we get word from the health department," Harden said.

page 3A
issue 1 volume 37
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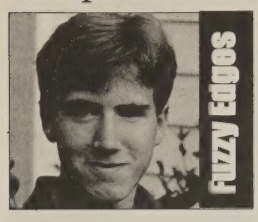
Opinion

School's quiet, too quiet



By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

Since before time was recorded, students and teachers have fought an epic battle which has raged across the centuries. Teachers taught, and students did their best to disrupt this orderly sequence of events. This was called rebellion, and at Homestead, it's virtually dead.

The first day of school I woke up, loaded my backpack, put on my armor (my favorite shirt), and prepared for battle. Who knew what foul deeds might await? I looked forward to a wild and chaotic day. Would I face pop quizzes, have to meet new teenagers, perhaps I'd get in a fight with someone over Tupac?

You see, at school, anything *can* happen; especially on the first day.

And yet...it all went so peacefully! There I was, armed to the teeth with witticisms, snide remarks, and the resolve to use them without mercy and what did I get all day? Nothing, not so much as a millimeter of insult or rebellion. Seniors sipped frappuccinos in the commons, sophomores chatted openly with upperclassmen, teachers chatted with students: all of them following the rules at all costs.

But I digress, my day went off with out a hitch. No one bothered me, the teachers were all smiles and innocent questions, and I didn't even have to open a text book. In short, the first day was horrible! It was a ruin of what it could have been.

Where was the chaos, the food fights, the thundering choruses of "OOOOOOOHHH" as two juniors insulted each other's mothers and took it to the "next level" while we seniors took bets on the outcome? Swirlies? Fisticuffs? Drug busts? Woopie cushions? None of the above.

But the rebel was once alive and well in our seemingly quiet and peaceful high school. Just a few short years ago, Big Boy himself graced the top of the building, an act of rebellion which took both a considerable amount of time and effort to produce (how did they get that 35-foot Boy on the roof anyway?) But in the last decade what other memorable acts of rebellion have there been?

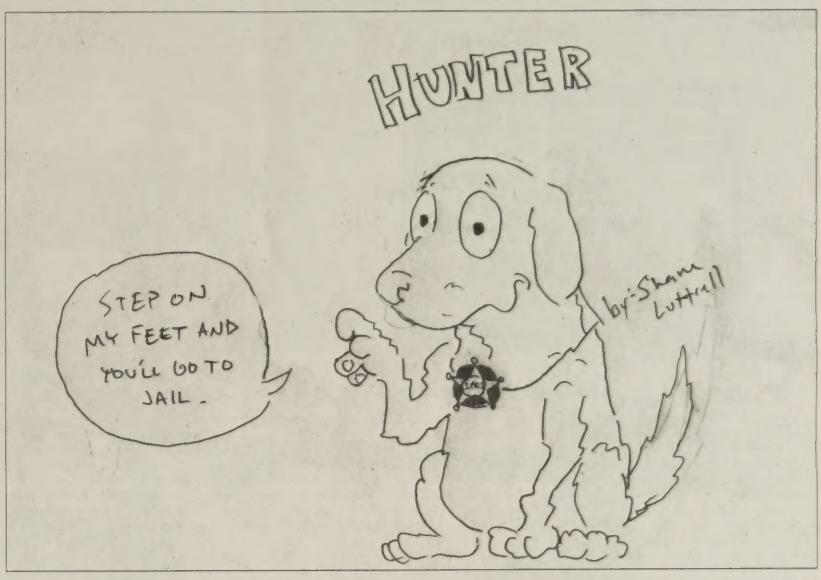
The duct tape over the mouth in support of gay rights hardly counts. Senior pranks have declined from Big Boy, to water balloons, to painting stop signs.

Rebellion is the sacred duty of a small portion of students, they are drawn to it by nature, they can't help it. Lately however, it appears that even nature cannot conquer the peace and quiet Homestead is becoming famous for. Hallways are silent for hours, pranks are nonexistent, stink bombs haven't been detected in years.

So who killed the rebel? Was it the security cameras, the urine test, the nosy Labrador? I say the administration's sucked the life right out of this place.

Ever notice those insanely white walls and the eyes staring at you from the ceiling all day long? Big Brother's watching...and Hunter the drug dog too. Who could possibly be a rebel when he's on camera 24/7?

Where have the likes of Ferris Buhler, James Dean and the Fonz got to? This school's rebels are being mercilessly suppressed, and I for one, say we rebel, before it's too late, before we join the millions of adults who don't appreciate a good fight, swirlie, or prank.



District succeeds, despite software

When Centerpoint failed, administrators stepped up to the plate

The editorial board has often used this space to criticize a specific policy or to encourage a certain way of thinking. Rarely, however, have we used this space to praise. The conduct of the student body, staff and parents as the summer scheduling battle with Centerpoint raged, however, is worthy of such praise.

It's been a long and winding road for Centerpoint, the doomed program SACS chose a year and a half ago to manage student information with. Many teachers have ranted to their students about the difficulties and deficiencies of the program; grades could not be viewed properly, scales didn't match up, "it fell far short of expectations"- in short, it sucked. But despite the mess the program made, for a year and half students, parents, teachers, and administrators have dealt with the program bit by bit, and for the most part, they've made it through without a scratch and without complaint.

Often in the case of criticism, students are the first to offer their negative opinion (closely followed by the newspaper, of course). But in this case the student body did not clamor for change that was impossible to make. Meetings with counselors throughout July and August went off without a hitch, conflicts were quickly resolved, schedules completed.

When teachers' schedules were still being altered just days before school was to start, some educators would have grumbled at the changes, made their objections clear. But here the problem was dealt with, as always, professionally.

On opening day students went to class on schedule, even if that class was not the original one they had hoped for. They may not have had the teacher they wanted, they may not have been with their friends six periods a day, but all the same they went about their business the same as always.

Some may say; what did it matter that we couldn't pick our teachers, that we had to give up a class or two? For them, the editorial board offers this; if the media and our parents are to be believed, teenagers are the most selfish individuals in America, hardly capable of giving up a cell phone and their own car, let alone the choice of teachers, lunch, and courses.

Was Centerpoint a mistake? There is little doubt of that. The fact that SACS could have purchased PowerSchool a year ago and saved hours of administrator time, student and teacher angst proves this. But the failure of Centerpoint did not bring out the worst in students, teachers, or administrators. Instead, it helped bring out the best.

Drug dog should prove a major win for SACS

Positively Speaking

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

When I think of what a drug dog is, the word "passive" just doesn't cross my mind. I tend to imagine those late-night Cops reruns and, more specifically, that 200-pound mammoth of a German shepherd aptly named Buck who chases down a drug dealer on the run from a botched sting operation. Or that Fear Factor episode where contestants wear bite-proof suits and run across a field while a trained narcotics dog chases them down from behind, tears at their suit ruthlessly, and tosses them around like an enraged bull.

So imagine my surprise when Hunter, our new "passive drug dog," came strolling out and took a seat on the auditorium stage during my class meeting. The Labrador looks like any other dog, just as happy and care-free as any domesticated canine.

But what surprised me even more was the extent of the dog's capabilities. Not what it can do (detect drug paraphernalia and explosives) but how it can do it.

Hunter can detect even the smallest trace amount of drugs in everything from a student's locker to his car to his clothing. And unlike drug testing, where the drug only stays in the system for a brief amount of time, Hunter can smell the drugs for much longer.

At my senior class meeting, Student Resource Officer (SRO) A.J. Pape recalled a time just a few weeks ago when the dog detected trace amounts of a drug in a locker in the academy. The residue had been in the locker since school let out last June. Surely the dog will be able to smell it on anyone walking the halls.

The acquisition of the drug dog should prove to be a major win for SACS' fight against drug use in the district. If anything, the presence of the dog, which can sniff out any paraphernalia at any time during the day, will deter students from doing drugs. Students who drive to school will also be subject to Hunter's searches, which will help catch not only the kids that bring drugs into the halls but also those who leave it in their vehicles.

At only $700 a year, the dog is a relatively cheap investment. Hunter represents an initial investment of $5,550, but there is only a $700 cost to keep the dog fed, boarded, and trained each year. Compared to the pricy drug testing, Hunter's a bargain.

Hopefully, the majority of kids will choose to leave their dope at home or, better yet, not smoke it altogether.

But those who risk it are have a much better chance of getting caught by a dog who is constantly patrolling the hallways than being drug tested at random. It's the perfect "cherry on top" to the drug testing program.

I am excited to see Hunter in action. I haven't seen him working the halls yet this year, but I am sure he will make his appearances, and when he does, you can be sure Homestead will be a better place for it.

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Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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page 4
issue 1 volume 37
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fort wayne, indiana 46814

life

Spotlight 'Sunshine'

Critic Chris Purdy weighs in on the wickedly funny independent film "Little Miss Sunshine"

PHOTO USED UNDER FAIR USE LAW

PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Academy in motion; year two

By Megan Miller
Writer

The first year is gone and past for the Freshmen Academy. When the architect for the Academy was hired in July 2004, the main goal was to provide a smaller learning center. With two years of study, meetings, and site research, the Freshmen Academy went up in full force in August 2005.

The successful installation of the Academy was made possible by parents, students, the community, and the Homestead staff members who volunteered to take part.

The goals for the Freshmen Academy continue to be addressed, including improving student academic performance, improving student behavior, and increasing student involvement in school activities.

One of the unique features of the Academy is the idea of "houses" which made scheduling particularly difficult for freshmen this year. With the switch to PowerSchool next year, counselors and administrators hope that the scheduling process will proceed more smoothly next year.

Another initial goal of the Academy was to help students focus on academic and social skills. Teaching teams and counselors take time utilizing planned meetings and discussions to ensure success for their students.

All freshmen have their core classes in the Academy while electives and lunch are held in the main building. Being separate from the rest of the school does not prevent students from receiving the same caliber of education. Freshmen are still offered honors classes, AP Block, and college prep courses.

> *"The kids are transitioning very well this year and the academy continues to be a success."*
>
> Jerry Schillinger
> Assistant Principal

"The Freshmen Academy had a very good staff last year," said David McKim (10).

Needing extra time to go between the academy and their classes in the main building, the students are allowed to leave two minutes early.

"I have two classes that are on the opposite ends of the school, but I can get there without being tardy when I leave a little earlier," said Carolyn Mutton (9).

Taking a glance at last year, the reviews of the Academy are mixed.

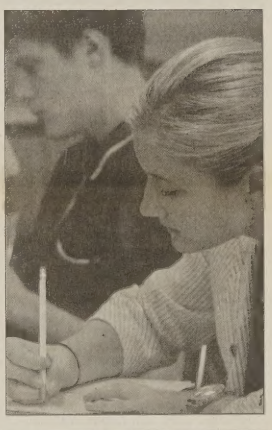
"The Freshmen Academy was good for adjusting from middle school to high school," Ben Hicks (10) said.

A transition period for incoming freshmen was one main purpose of the Academy, but some students felt that the Academy kept them too far away from the rest of the school.

"It was too separate. It was too much like middle school. I feel like I am starting all over again this year, like this is my first real year of high school," Clare Lundergan (10).

The area between the passageways between the main building and the Academy has also been considered for development. Last year, Principal Dianne Moake commented on the possibility of allowing students to eat outside in the courtyard.

The academy will continue to focus on being an individual learning unit that improves student academic success.



CLUB BRIEFS

FRENCH CLUB
French club, also known as Franco Fanas, is a club devoted to French culture. For more information, visit Susan Spiedel in room 524.

SPANISH CLUB
The club will first meet on Sept. 7 and every other Thursday. They'll visit different Mexican restaurants, work on a service project, or cook. Spanish club will also be holding their annual holiday and end of the year parties.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
National Honor Society will meet Tuesday, Sept. 5 in the community room after school. Seniors are asked to attend in order to discuss the year's program.

SPEECH & DEBATE
The Speech and Debate team's first general meeting will be on Sept. 11 in room 440. This is the debate team's second year, fresh with new board officers. Travis Fisher coordinates the speech team while Joe Wolter heads the debate team. The teams hope to increase the number of events they attend.

ART CLUB
Art Club's first meeting of the year will be held on Sept. 5 from 2:45 to 3:30 in room 108 to plan for the year ahead.

BPA
For students interested in business and economics, Business Professional of America (BPA) is a competitive club designed to give students real-life experiences. See Gayle Topp in room 527 for more information.

HOSPITALITY CLUB
Students interested in hotel or restaurant management, culinary arts, or tourism can join Hospitality Club. Yearly dues are $5 and more information can be found in Denise Gellar's room (102).

Seniors escape school for work, college credits

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

The start of school signals the beginning of the end for seniors. Already experiencing early senioritis and ready to move to the next stage in their lives, many seniors dread the thought of an entire day of school.

Luckily there are alternatives for seniors that allow them to leave school early and still earn credit.

Under the higher education program, seniors can leave early to attend a class at another area education center. Many students choose IPFW because it is close and credits received are transferable to their future college. Participating in this program means seniors get to leave two periods early for every higher education class they are taking.

"This is a good way to begin preparing for college," guidance counselor Amy Hamilton said. "Many of the credits received can be used as "dual" credits, which means [they count] for both high school graduation requirements and for college."

Allison Douglas (12) is one of the students who takes classes at IPFW. Her class started last Monday. She leaves after fifth period to take a communications 114 class.

"I chose to do this because I only have five required courses left to take, and I can get a head start on college," Douglas said.

However, by taking a college course, students can expect the homework to jump to college level, too.

"I got my two syllabuses today and…they are looking extremely tough," Tom Evans (12) said. Evans is taking sociology and western civilizations at IPFW. While the work may be daunting, Evans' fellow classmates are not.

"Everyone was pretty friendly. Multiple people came up and…introduced themselves to me. It was kinda neat," Evans said.

If the idea of more schoolwork intimidates students, co-op provides students with the opportunity to leave school for work. It allows students to begin saving money for college or simply to have some extra money for personal reasons, as well as explore career paths in an educational environment.

"I leave after fifth period," Hannah Smith (12) said. "I volunteer at Little River Wetlands Organization on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I want to study environmental science with wetlands at IU after I graduate, so this is a great opportunity."

Not all students see co-op from the educational perspective; many simply apply to continue working during the school year.

"I lifeguard at Chestnut Hills Pool, so I get to leave after fifth period," Jared Curtis (12) said. "It is easy and I didn't want to have to be at school all day."

Over the years, co-op has seen a gain in popularity.

"This is a program that, if you are interested in doing [it], you need to make sure you begin talking to your counselor and planning for it in your junior year because the spots fill up quickly," said Hamilton.

Anthis provides students with career and technical classes, most of which span two years and cover instructional and on-the-job education.

Topics covered include health careers, cosmetology, and construction trades. No matter what students choose to do in the final years of high school, those years are expected to be the best, and students participating in higher education and co-op seem to agree.

"The best part of my senior year so far is getting out [of school] early," Douglas said.

"The relaxed atmosphere and not very strong academic pressure are my favorite parts of being a senior," Smith said.

Back in the rut: finding peace in the routine of school

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

Ask Emma: write to thespartana@gmail.com

It's the start of a new school year, and so naturally I have plenty of things to complain about. Friends and teachers have left the building. No more late Tuesday nights or sleeping in. College applications. C lunch. Crowded halls. Running outside in gym. The sophomores are unfamiliar, just recently released from the academy. The school dumped Centerpoint, but not soon enough to let us arena schedule. To top it all off, the hand dryer in the girl's bathroom in the cafeteria still does not work.

Despite my whining, and although I do not love high school, I have developed a comfortable yet twisted affection for Homestead. She's like an annoying younger sibling; I enjoy making fun of her and dislike being obligated to spend time with her. However, if anyone from South Side or Canterbury hints that HHS is sub-par, I'll defend our Spartan cement block of a school until it comes to blows (and at that point, I shall walk away, because it is really stupid to incur physical damage for the sake of a high school).

It's passé, it's corny, it's lame, but I have school spirit. I really do respect the teachers, and I actually like my fellow students. I would never step on the drug dog's tail (that's cruel), or put gum under a desk (that's just gross). I am proud of our victories, our honors, and our foamy-soap dispensers. My high school years are not the best of my life, but they're decent. In fact, they're pretty good.

Strolling down the hallway to the front commons, with the sun streaming in the center skylight and the swimmers in their corner, some students sipping Frapuccinos, others milling about aimlessly, I feel a strange sense of peace. It is, I imagine, not unlike the mystical solstice at Stonehenge that Mr. Clough keeps talking about. Here the sun rises over Summit on the first day of school and shines in through the front doors at just the angle so that it "bathes" the commons in "brilliant light."

Maybe not. But to me, there is something wonderful about the predictability and ritual of high school mornings. Bag over shoulder, books in the crook of my arm, I trudge through these "hallowed halls of academia" and feel if not happy at least… home.

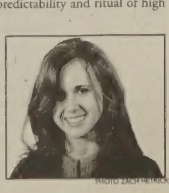


PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Homestead hosts foreign exchange students

By David Greco
Writer

It's 1 a.m. in Fort Wayne; nearly every student is either asleep or cramming for tests. Yet nearly 4400 miles away Daniel Werner would be waking up to get ready for a normal day of school.

Daniel Werner is one of six foreign exchange students at the school. Though he is nearly half-way around the world from his home in Gera, Germany, Werner has not needed to change his morning routine.

"In Germany, you must be in school by 7:30," he said. "And classes start at 7:45 here."

Every morning, Werner's host "sister" Nadia Ghaffarian drives him to school; an experience that Werner finds strange after living where public transportation is a staple of city living.

Once at school, Werner goes to classes that he, for the most part, was able to choose himself.

"You can't choose the classes [in Germany]…" he said. "Here you have biology, chemistry, everything."

In addition to the freedom to choose classes, Werner has had to adjust to the different taste in food in the United States.

"[The food] is very different," he said. "…But I think I'm getting used to the tastes."

Another difference between Homestead and German schools is how school extracurricular athletics work.

While Fort Wayne schools have competitive sports teams, schools in Germany do not.

"You have the normal choir, theater, and some sports," he said. "But they don't compete like that in the U.S., Indiana, or in Fort Wayne."

Aside from the changes in his daily routine at school, Werner has enjoyed being in the foreign exchange program because of his new experiences outside of school.

"I got to go jet skiing at a friend's lake house," Werner said. "I never would've had that opportunity in Germany."

Whether in school or around Fort Wayne, Werner's positive outlook is partly due to the warm welcome he received from the students.

"Everyone [at Homestead] treats me like a best friend," he said. "… and that's very special."

In contrast to Werner's European background, Ana Tapias (12) from San Cristóbal, Venezuela, has been here since the second semester of last year. Tapias embraced the opportunity to become a foreign exchange student and saw it as a chance to increase her knowledge of the English language.

"I am happy to be here because English is important," she said.

She has had to adjust to a completely different type of schooling system than what she had in Venezuela, where classes start at 7:15 and end at 12:45. Everyday, Tapias would have a different school schedule.

Unlike Homestead, Venezuelan students do not go to different classrooms; instead, the students stay in the same classroom all day as different teachers change classrooms for each subject. Although this type of schooling is very different from what Homestead students are used to, Tapias said it has its benefits.

"Since the school is small and you stay in the same class all day, you have more friends… they're like family," she said.

Even with longer school days and separate classrooms for each subject, Tapias has been able to take advantage of the extra-curriculars at Homestead that were not available for girls in Venezuela.

Left: Daniel Werner's home town is Gera, Germany.
Above: Ana Tapias will be at Homestead until the end of first semester.

The exchange students - hailing from as far as Russia, Germany, and Venezuela - come from vastly different cultures. Most of them are never noticed.

"[Here] people are very kind…," Werner said. "I think I like that the most."

Behind the red chair

Susan Johnson's passion for reading, apple in hand

By Susan Johnson
Guest Writer

I love to read and to learn. When I was a child - sixty-some years ago now - pre-school did not exist, and I was forced to spend my early years first with building blocks and sand castles before moving on to forts and tree houses in a nearby vacant lot. Early on my mind was full of Indians and ponies and pirates and princesses, my imaginary play friends until one day, magically, I was allowed to actually get on a bus and ride off to school.

I remember my first day of kindergarten vividly for several reasons; the first was that I had to walk two long city blocks to catch a bus each morning, and the bus ride would be the first without my mother close by telling me when it was safe to get off. I was terrified, but my terror lasted only until the bus arrived at the schoolyard. I see it clearly still, as if it were a photograph burned right into my mind's eye. What seemed like hundreds of little people, each with a different colored book satchel, were all running about and skipping.

Immediately I was taken by the happy sounds of their laughter and yells and more than ready to become a part of it. The sturdiness of the golden brick school building in the background only enhanced the vision – something so solid that it surely had to be safe.

And, so it was. Coming home that afternoon, I ran every step of those two blocks, my black-watch plaid book satchel banging against my legs as I flew. Before I actually reached my house, I saw my mother standing on the porch waiting for me.

Up the steps I tore, gasping for breath, and when she asked simply, "How was it?" I beamed from ear to ear, dramatically threw up my arms up into the air, and cried, "It's wonderful!" To this very day, that's how I feel about school.

And why shouldn't I? That's where I learned to read. Reading was always my favorite subject in school, and when I was old enough to walk to the library, I did so at least once every single week. The Tecumseh Branch Library was about six blocks away from my house, and in the 1950s it was safe for a little person in my neighborhood to make that walk alone. I had a small wicker basket that I carried with me, along with my book satchel, and my mother always put a quarter in my sweater pocket.

After I visited the library and had a stack of books big enough to fill my satchel, I stopped at the Pio Meat Market on my way home to buy twenty-five cents worth of apples. These I carried home in my basket. And once I arrived, I bolted behind the red chair in the front room to hide and read and eat my apples. Often I was so involved in my stories that I did not want to get up and throw away my apple cores – so I learned to eat them - seeds, stem, and all.

To this very day that's how I eat an apple. Good roughage, right? The Pio Meat Market is still there – even after all these years – and of course the library is, too. Not so long ago it was completely renovated and, when it reopened, I went to visit.

But the new carpet smell made it seem like completely foreign territory, so I have never returned. Every weekend, though, when I do my marketing, I carry all my lists and coupons and quarters with me in that same little basket that once held all those apples. Ah – all this from loving to read and learn.

Each issue a new teacher will contribute to the Spartana a small column about their lives before Homestead.

Spirit, continued from page 1A

actually watching the game," Romelfanger said.

Not to say that Homestead is completely without supportive crowds. "Painters" attend football games where they assist the running, jumping, cheering Spartan mascot and create chants for the crowd.

"Our job is to fire up the team and letting them know that their school is behind them," said Joey Parker (12), who assumed a leadership role in the tradition this season.

"It's always best when the fans are going crazy," football player Nick Edwards (11) said, "our spirit is good, but could definitely get a lot better".

Despite their efforts, Homestead Painters are no match for the over-the-top spirit of some of the other local schools.

One of the baseline sections in Manchester's stadium-like gym is devoted entirely to the yelling, energetic students. Chants are started and rituals are performed under the large, colorful mural reading "The Jungle."

Huntington North's student section is dubbed "The Pit" at both football and basketball games. Out of "The Pit" arose an unusual tradition started by five friends during last basketball season in an attempt to help out the state-ranked Viking squad.

"We gave each night a theme, and we would show up to the game decked out in ridiculous outfits," Huntington student Jordan Brown (Huntington '06) said. "Some of the themes, like cowboy, were significant because we played the Anderson Indians that game, but we also used fun ones like nerd, wear clothes backwards, suit, construction, and hobo."

Other area schools have begun implementing dress up themes to promote school spirit.

"[Canterbury] began promoting dress up nights at soccer games…this season. Not many people have gotten really into the costume part yet, but they do play theme music during the games," Aubry Holle (11) from Canterbury said.

In Homestead's hallowed halls this year, students will find themselves surrounded by more posters advertising the different sports of the season. Large banners appear near the Varsity lockers before most football games and are hung in the gym for the volleyball team.

"[The cheerleaders] made the majority of the posters hanging around school this year. We just wanted to increase students' enthusiasm and awareness of all the sports going on and to help pump up the teams," Romelfanger said.

Student knowledge of existing spirit activities is minimal.

"Right now I think we have a spirit day on Friday's, but I don't believe many students get involved with it," said Reid Braun (10).

Romelfanger suggests that promoting dress up days and the additional of pep sessions before big games or matches in any sport might get students more involved.

"School spirit definitely gives players that added push to go that extra mile, to pull it off and win the game," Varsity cheerleader Megan Bulloch (12) said. "We have put things in place this year to be more supportive of all activities at Homestead."

Summer Concert Series

Performance recap, students' favorite artists 'wowed' thousands over the summer

PHOTOS USED UNDER FREE USE GUIDELINES

Jimmy Buffet

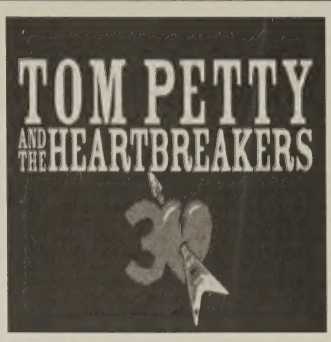
Date: August 8, 2006
Location: Noblesville, IN (Verizon Wireless Music Center)
Admission: $36

"It was awesome. It was a good concert. I really liked his concert, it was a laid-back feeling with everyone there," Jake Lemon (12) said. "The only bad thing was that it was sold out and packed."

Counting Crows and the Goo Goo Dolls

Date: July 8, 2006
Location: Noblesville, IN (Verizon Wireless Music Center)
Admission: $40

"They played all of their famous songs, but not so many of the new ones," Chelsea Patton (11) said, referencing to the Goo Goo Dolls' performance. "I liked the two songs their bass player sang."



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers

Date: June 23, 2006
Location: Noblesville, IN (Verizon Wireless Music Center)
Admission: $65

"I thought the concert was really good, especially at the age that Tom Petty is at. He seemed on top of his game and never missed a beat. ...It was an awesome show, well worth the money," Jordan Logan (12) said.

Dave Matthews Band Summer Tour 2006

Date: June 2 and 3, 2006
Location: Noblesville, IN (Verizon Wireless Music Center)
Admission: $45

"I went to Dave last year and this year and he was amazing both times. I think I liked last year better though because it rained during the encore," Megan Koontz (12) said.

Ben Harper with Damien Marley

Date: August 21, 2006
Location: The Lawn at White River

Admission: $35

Doors open: 7:00 p.m.

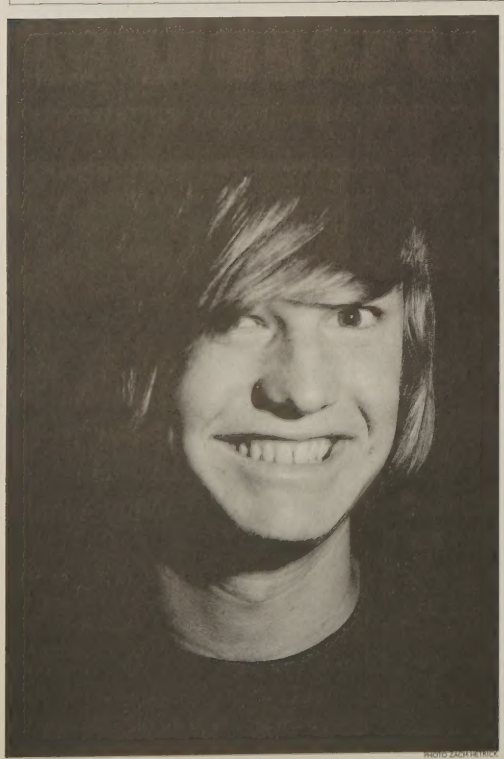


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Profile of the issue: Andrew Reiman

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

An entire list of first impressions comes to mind, but junior Andrew Reiman can be correctly described by an unusual set of words: Eagle Scout, musician, and international traveler. And while most students let their fading summers become mere memories, Andrew's summer – a summer as unquestionably unique as the person – is indelible. With his memories while being a CIT, performing on a mission trip, and spending two weeks in Kandersteg, Switzerland, The Spartana sat down with Andrew to learn more about his summer adventures.

Spartana: You've had a pretty eventful summer. Tell us about it.

Andrew: I started out my summer June 18. I went to Petoskey, Michigan where I worked at Camp Daggett. It's a summer camp for boys and girls for four weeks. [I was] a CIT and I also worked in the swimming area. I came back from that and left the next day to go to West Virginia for a week with my church teen choir. We did a combination of performance trip and mission trip.

Spartana: And then Switzerland. What were your first impressions?

Andrew: Switzerland was beautiful. We were in the German portion so unfortunately my three years of French didn't come in handy. But it was really beautiful and clean, like it was off a postcard. It was really cool – there were mountains everywhere. When I was there I did canyoning, which is going down a stream that forms in between two mountains [and] jumping off waterfalls. I did some rock climbing, but mostly what I did was a lot of backpacking and hiking in the mountains. When I was at the top I did some ice climbing.

Spartana: And you traveled alone - how did your parents let you get away with that?

Andrew: I was pretty much by myself, but I was usually paired up with another group. Since where I stayed was an International Scout Center, I got to meet other people from all over the world. My parents thought it was cool, but they're still a little sore about it because it's my second time being to Europe and neither of them has been.

Spartana: Americans who travel abroad face some tough critics. Did you experience any negativity because of your nationality?

Andrew: Yeah, at first, there were a lot of people that just assumed "Oh, it's an American. He's going to come and think he's better than everyone else, he's going to try and do everything himself." One time when I was doing a mountain hike…I got paired with a group from Ireland. The Irish, they're just crazy. The way up the hike should take between five to six hours, and… we actually set the record for going up the mountain in three hours and 35 minutes. The hike down the mountain is supposed to take four to five hours. We actually did it in 53 minutes. The Irish kids…had a perception that Americans are just a bunch of people that sit around and don't do anything. When I kept up with them and became friends with a lot of the kids in the group they made me an honorary Irishman and they gave me a jersey from their local soccer team.

Spartana: What's your best summer memory?

Andrew: Working up at camp. [I formed] relationships with a lot of my coworkers and [got] to work with the kids and see the impact and what a good time they had. The entire experience I had there is something that I value and think about everyday and can't wait to go do again next summer.

Spartana: Already your résumé has Eagle Scout and traveler on it. What else can you to add to that?

Andrew: Music. I play ten instruments. Most of my studies focus on the bassoon, which I play in orchestra and I'm also in the Ft. Wayne Youth Symphony. I play with the Philharmonic every now and then. I also play the tenor sax, alto sax, taught myself to play piano and the organ, and the hand bells.

Spartana: High school is shaded by how other people view you. How do you deal with people who are quick to judge?

Andrew: I realized a long time ago…that I'm not going to try to impress anybody, or try and dress a certain way or act a certain way or hang out with a certain group of people. I'm just going to be who I'm going to be and do what I'm going to do. There are a lot of people who don't like that. I am who I am, and that's who I am.

tvreviews

Psych

Air Days: Fridays 10:00 p.m. EST on USA Network
(Comcast channel 20)

Banking off of the recent success of "Monk," USA Network picked up "Psych," which features Shawn Spencer, a thirty-something slacker with a knack for noticing little details who poses as a psychic detective. After awing the police by solving a few crimes, he was hired on the basis that his visions could help them in the future.

But Shawn, played by actor James Roday, has a little problem with falling for girls involved in his cases and has a habit of trying to impress them with his freakish, phony, and hilarious "episodes" when he acts like he's having a vision of events related to the cases.

In truth, Shawn was just brought up from a young age to notice even the slightest details by his police officer father, played by veteran actor Corbin Bernsen. Shawn is joined by his best friend, Gus, who was at first very reluctant to be a part of the con but eventually gave in.

Grey's Anatomy

Air Days: Thursdays 9:00 p.m. EST on ABC Network
New Season Premiers Sept. 21

If you haven't already joined the "Grey's Anatomy" bandwagon, this season is as good as any to start watching the hit show. Grey's focuses on five surgical interns at Seattle Grace Hospital in Seattle, Washington who face daily problems with friendships, love, and not killing (or falling in love with) their patients.

While skeptics may say that this is just another typical hospital show, it brings a fresh look to the TV-hospital scene. Taking a look at the lives of five surgical interns - Meredith Grey, Cristina Yang, Izzie Stevens, George O'Malley and Alex Karev - the show represents the struggles that interns have to go through along with the residents who teach them. Each of the interns has their own little secrets to be discovered along the way, not to mention forbidden romances between the residents and their interns. With two seasons under their belt, "Grey's Anatomy" holds a promising future.

The Office

Air Days: Thursdays 8:00 p.m. EST on NBC
New Season Premiers Sept. 21st

Filmed in a mockumentary style with offbeat humor, "The Office" chronicles the daily grind at the fictional Dunder-Mifflin Paper Company in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The show focuses on regional manager Michael Scott (Steve Carrell), who cracks embarrassingly bad jokes, tries to be "friends" with his employees, carry on what he perceives as a romance with his boss, and prevent his branch from being downsized. Dwight K. Schrute (Rainn Wilson), easily the funniest nerd since Napoleon Dynamite, is the fascist "Assistant to the Regional Manager" who sucks up to Michael while trying to get Jim Halpert (John Krasinski), his chief tormentor, fired. The heart and soul of Dunder-Mifflin is Fisher), the receptionist. Jim and Pam are perfect for each other, but standing in their way is warehouse worker Roy (David Denman), Pam's lunkhead fiancé of three years. One episode and you'll be hooked on this show.

sudoku

8					2			
6	2	3			4			
		5		9	8	2	3	6
4	6	7					1	
	9			3			6	
	3					5	9	4
3	8	6	2	1		9		
			6			3	7	1
			5					8

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

bookreviews

God of Small Things
by Arundhati Roy

Genre: General
Synopsis: One traumatic event sets the scene for this story as the timeline jumps back and forth and focuses around the fraternal twins Rahel and Estha as they cope with their family, their Indian culture, and the consequences that follow every action.
Recommended Because: Through his beautiful prose, Roy has created a world with characters full of life who are at once completely human and entirely inspiring. Recommended for those who don't require a novel to be heavy on plot.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
by Ann Brashares

Genre: For girls/young adult
Synopsis: The book is a series of stories told through the eyes of four very different friends as they battle the challenges that teenage life presents and prove how powerful friendship can be.
Recommended Because: Brashares gives each of the girls a well-rounded, wholesome personality, and it is hard to believe that they are fictional characters.

The Ground Beneath Her Feet
by Salmon Rushdie

Genre: General
Synopsis: The book tells the story of three young people from India who ride the wave of the rock 'n' roll industry in the 20th century. A life-long love triangle between the three depicts what some have called a re-telling of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice.
Recommended Because: The massive vocabulary, cultural references, and odd blend of realism and fantasy will expand the mind and entertain at the same. For those who want a book that causes the reader to think, analyze, and keep a dictionary handy, this is a good one.

Being Dead
by Jim Crace

Genre: General
Synopsis: A wife and husband are murdered; slowly their lives are revealed in reverse, unraveling a complicated relationship and the one memory that forever binds and separates them.
Recommended Because: Crace's plot line that moves from the point of murder backward is well written and adds a mysterious element to the story.

filmreviews

RECENT FILMS

Talladega Nights	★★★
World Trade Center	★★★
Snakes on a Plane	★★★
The Descent	★★★
Miami Vice	★★½

(Out of four stars, by Chris Purdy)

COMING SOON

The Protector	9/8
Hollywoodland	9/8
DOA: Dead or Alive	9/8
The Black Dahlia	9/15
Gridiron Gang	9/15
The Last Kiss	9/15
Jet Li's Fearless	9/22
Feast	9/22
Jackass: Number Two	9/22

'Sunshine' fueled by quirky characters, constant laughs

Directorial debut for Dayton and Faris a hit; independent film cast strikes comedy gold

By Chris Purdy
Writer

What a pleasant surprise; in a summer full of blockbusters ranging from mildly to massively disappointing, this ray of Sunshine reminds you that there are still smart filmmakers out there who care about the art form. I've always been a fan of independent films because they are truly original and rarely, if ever, disappointing. This highly intelligent comedy is no different.

Little Miss Sunshine is the first feature film for music video directing duo Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, and it's oozing with style, but not in a distracting way. Dayton and Faris, along with also-first-time screenwriter Michael Arndt, do a wonderful job of introducing each individual character with his or her own scene and with little or no dialogue. The movie is fueled entirely by its quirky characters (of which there are many) and never once loses steam due to a tight script and plenty of stomach-clutching, laugh-out-loud moments.

The first character we meet is the dorky but still adorable Olive (Abigail Breslin, Signs). As the movie opens, viewers find Olive watching a beauty pageant on TV and attempting to match every motion of its winning contestant. Despite her odd appearance (large plastic-rimmed glasses included), she loves participating in child pageants.

> "With such an original and likeable film as this, I have no desire to say any more than I have to..."

We are then introduced to her father, Richard (Greg Kinnear, The Matador), a motivational speaker who is hilariously unmotivational as he gives a talk about his beloved "Nine Steps to Success" to a room of about ten people.

Dwayne (Paul Dano, Taking Lives), Olive's older brother, is a self-proclaimed Nietzschist who has taken a vow of silence, and he must write everything he wants to say with a pencil and paper.

Grandpa (Alan Arkin, Wait Until Dark) is wickedly funny and is the family member who spends the most time with Olive, but unfortunately he has a bad habit of snorting heroin.

Lastly we meet Olive's mother Sheryl (Toni Collette, In Her Shoes) as she is trying to get to the hospital to pick up her brother Frank (Steve Carell, Anchorman) who tried to kill himself. You can just imagine how well this family gets along with each other.

When they all sit down for dinner together after these introductions, hilarity ensues. Not one person can even pretend to get along with everyone else, especially Richard, who won't accept that Frank is anything other than a failure. Dwayne won't talk to anyone because he hates everyone, Olive wants to know why Frank tried to kill himself, and Grandpa's tired of the same old chicken for dinner. But to make things crazier, when the family gets a phone call that Olive has won a regional beauty contest by default, they realize they must get from Albuquerque to California for the Little Miss Sunshine pageant in just two days. So they all pile into a Microbus and hit the road.

With such an original and likeable film as this, I have no desire to say any more than I have to, so I'll stop before I spoil anything about the road trip itself. I will, however, say that there are some great scenes that are unexpected and hilarious simply because what happens is the opposite of what would normally happen in any other cookie-cutter comedy.

Everything that takes place between the family members on the trip only serves to strengthen the moment when they come together to rescue Olive, the movie's only source of innocence, from an incredibly vain and quite disturbing child beauty pageant.

Even though this comedy has an important message, don't think for one moment that it lets up on the humor. This is, without a doubt, the best film I have seen all year, and I wouldn't mind

EYE CONTACT: STOCK CAR RACING

a photo essay by zach hetrick

1

CERNY RACING TEAM

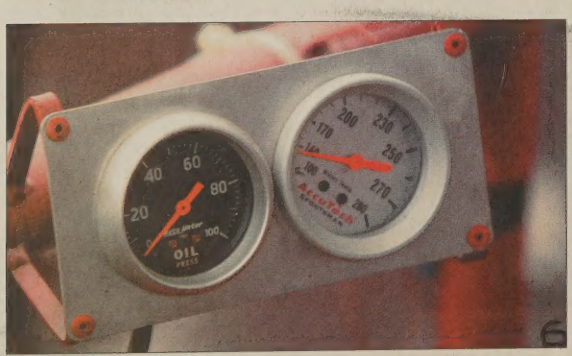
2

3

4

5

STUDENT **GABE CERNY** (12) IS FOLLOWING HIS CHILDHOOD DREAM BY RACING STOCK CARS AT BAERFIELD SPEEDWAY. CERNY IS RANKED **SECOND** IN THE POINTS RACE AND SITS IN **FIRST PLACE FOR ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.** EACH FEATURE RACE IS 20 LAPS AROUND A 3/8 MILE TRACK (7.5 MILES). THIS IS **CERNY'S FIRST YEAR** IN THE CIRCUIT.



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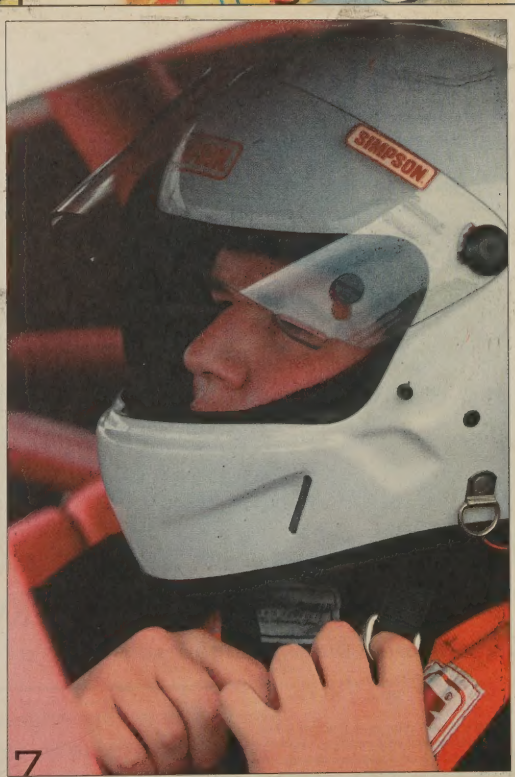

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1. Gabe Cerny (12) was named rookie of the year at Baerfield Speedway. 2. Cerny waits his turn for practice on Saturday, Aug. 19. 3. Cerny poses for a picture after his feature race win. 4. Cerny preps for a qualifier in a borrowed backup car. 5. Cerny's gloves and helmet rest in his car before his practice run. 6. Cerny's car, a custom Monte Carlo, was constructed by Cerny and his crew chief John Robinson. 7. Cerny with helmet on before a race at the Baerfield Speedway. Cerny is currently ranked second in points. 8. Cerny races a backup car in the qualifier for a later race.

8

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4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

Friday, September 1, 2006

Former University of Illinois standout begins tenure as volleyball coach

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

The varsity volleyball team started off their season with a 3-1 record, with the help of new coach, Lydia Gard.

Last year's coach, Robert Ochoa, resigned after the 2005-2006 season due to personal reasons. After searching and interviewing candidates to take over the role of varsity coach, Gard was selected.

Though Gard is extremely busy with her husband and two young sons, she devotes a substantial amount of time to the varsity team. With her past experiences playing volleyball at the University of Illinois, many of the girls believe she brings encouragement and information to the team.

"She always tells us to have energy on the court and have fun," Melissa Gillum (12) said. "If we are behind, she always asks us if we want to win and tells us to go out on the court and fight for it."

Gard has expectations for this year's team.

"I expect the girls to always try their hardest during practices and games," Gard said. "I want these girls to be exposed and compete at the highest level they can."

The varsity team practices Monday through Friday from 3-5 p.m.

"We work on the basics of the game but we work a great deal on defense and serve receive, which has been very helpful," Anna Huguenard (12) said.

"Pretty much everyday we practice with the JV team, which helps both teams improve and be prepared for the upcoming games," Courtney Mrowczynski (10) said.

The Spartans needed to fight to the end to defeat Concordia and North Side in five games. The varsity team then beat Wayne in three quick games but lost in three games to Bishop Luers and Concord. According to Melissa Gillum the team's next "big game" is at home on September 11 vs. Snider.

So far, the girls seem to have adapted well to Coach Gard.

"Coach Lydia is great. She is very encouraging and positive. She gets us pumped up and knows a lot about volleyball," Becky Price (11) said.

"Coach Gard is awesome. She really knows the game and teaches us something new everyday. She's always enthusiastic during practices and keeps things interesting," Taylar Meeks (10) said.

Lydia has been pleased with the team's performance but has more goals for them to accomplish.

"My goals for the team are to play with intensity and have fun. I try to instill confidence in the girls as much as possible," Gard said.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Taylor Pyle (12) and Nick Edwards (11) congratulate tailback Ross Heckber (11) after an 80-yard screen play. Heckber was caught on the two yard line which lead to a touchdown by Jordan Wise

UNDEFEATED, AFTER TWO

Spartans start off the season with two victories for first time in three seasons

By Chris Ray
Writer

The rain held off as the varsity football team held on to the victory in the August 19 home opener against Huntington North. The game ended with the score of 28-13. However, the game was very hard-fought, which could be seen when the Spartans went down 10-0 early in the second half, causing some concern for players and fans alike.

"We just came out flat at the beginning of the game. We fumbled twice in Huntington North's territory, giving them great opportunities to score, and they capitalized," Jordan Wise (12), starting quarterback and safety, said

The team cut the lead to 10-7 on a rushing touchdown from Wise late in the second quarter. This gave the Spartans a big boost of confidence heading into halftime.

FOOTBALL INFORMATION
GAME 1: HHS 28 Hunt. North 13
GAME 2: HHS 28, Warsaw 6
Game tonight vs. East Noble
Time: 7:00
Location: Homestead

"The coaching staff did not say a whole lot to the team after the early deficit. Huntington North had many opportunities to score, and we were encouraged to only be down three at halftime. We knew our offense would begin to click in the second half, so we really had no worry. We were counting on our senior leadership to carry the team," Chad Zolman, the head coach, said.

The second half belonged to the Spartans, who seemed to have a new-born confidence and swagger. They were able to take the lead on another rushing touchdown by Wise and never looked back from there. They outscored the Vikings 21-3 in the half behind the strong play of Wise, who passed for 228 yards on 10-18 completions. He also ran for 28 yards on 17 carries, threw an interception, and had three total touchdowns in the game.

"I think we definitely could have done better this game. There were some big plays by running back Ross Heckber (11) and wide receiver Ryan Wright, (11) which set up our touchdowns in the redzone. Overall, I would say our first game wasn't terrible, but it wasn't great," Wise said.

Other strong performances came from running back Charles Seals (11) and defensive back Grant Laird (12). Seals put the Spartans up 21-13 with his rushing touchdown and Grant Laird anchored the defense with nine tackles and an interception.

The performance of the team did expose some causes of concern, as Huntington North gave the team a harder game than expected.

"There were miscommunication problems on defense. We gave up some third down conversions to Huntington North, which really wore us down. No big plays were given up, but we did allow them to have a couple of long drives," Jon Lehman (12) said.

Offensively, the team did well, but started the game off slow.

"We've always had trouble with playing with intensity in the first quarter. We are looking to improve on that before Warsaw. Execution was also a cause for concern, and the team has been working on improving that aspect during this week's practice," Zolman said.

Their next game was against Warsaw on Friday, August 25. In the past, the Spartans have had trouble with the Tigers, losing the last three games by very close margins.

"Even though we have lost three in a row to Warsaw, the team is still looking at it like a normal game. We're studying their offensive and defensive tendencies, and all of us hope that we can end the streak," Lehman said.

Apparently, the work paid off. The Spartans stopped the streak in a big way, tearing apart the Warsaw defense in the first half, en route to a 28-6 victory over the Tigers. Wise threw for 262 yards and three touchdowns in the first half and finished with 309 yards passing. Seals also added a rushing touchdown on the Spartans' first series of the game. Early in the second quarter, Wise connected with Brandon Derck (11), who raced through the middle of the Warsaw defense for 77 yards and a 14-0 lead. Later in the quarter, Wise would connect with Desmond Lewis (12) and Ryan Wright (11) for a 28-0 lead. Warsaw threatened twice in the third quarter, but an illegal block on a punt return and a fumble deep in Spartan territory stifled a possible comeback.

The Spartans look to go 3-0 when they play host to East Noble tonight.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Linebacker Kyle Sherer (12) knocks a Huntington North player off his intended pass route.

SEASON SCHEDULE

VARSITY FOOTBALL
09.01 East Noble 7:00PM
09.08 @ Columbia City 7:00PM
09.15 Bellmont 7:00PM
09.22 @ DeKalb 7:00PM
09.29 @ Carroll 7:00PM
10.06 Norwell 7:00PM
10.13 New Haven 7:00PM
10.20 Sectional TBA
10.27 Sectional TBA
11.03 Sectional TBA
11.10 Regional TBA
11.17 Semi State TBA
11.25 State @ Indy TBA

Girls golf team adjusts to many lost seniors

Off to 6-1 start on new course

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The girls golf team has had to overcome the obstacle of losing their top two ranked golfers from last year. Ashley Rohlfing ('06) and Krista Karidas ('06) were last year's top two seeded girls' varsity golfers. The girls lead the team as far as the state competition in their final year of high school. This year the team is faced with the challenge of doing as well as they did last year without their top two golfers, and so far they have managed to compile a 6-1 record.

Practice starts every day immediately after school. Depending on how the girls have been playing, practice is always different. The girls usually start by hitting some balls on the range and then teeing off in foursomes to play nine holes. After playing nine, the girls usually spend a half hour or so putting or working on chipping or sand shots. The lineup for matches is usually determined by the practice the day before.

"Losing Ashley was big; she was a four-year letter winner, and a three-time first team all-conference [winner], not only from the scoring stand point but also from the leadership standpoint. Jessica has been playing number one this year. She has really stepped in and has not left us a void," Coach Michelle Swing said.

"Losing Ashley [Rohlfing] was big...not only from the scoring stand point but also from the leadership standpoint."

Michelle Swing
Girls Golf Coach

Jessica Sciortino (12) was selected to be the new top-seeded golfer to take Ashley Rohlfing's place.

"I feel pressured to do well, and to set an example for my teammates, but also it feels cool to be there. I love this role, and I get to inspire the freshmen to do better," Sciortino said.

Along with changes in their varsity lineup, the girls have also switched to a different golf course. Last year, their home course was the Chestnut Hill Golf Course, and this year it is at the Orchard Ridge Golf Course.

"I personally love it. They [the Orchard Ridge staff] treat us nicer, and it's much harder to get into trouble," Kelly Dickmeyer (12) said.

This year, many freshmen are playing on the team, some of which are high prospects and others are not.

"There are a lot of freshmen this year, and half of them haven't played the game before, but for the half that has they could make varsity next year" Dickmeyer said.

The girls golf team walked off the Bridgewater golf course on Thursday, August 24 with their first loss of the season by 20 points. The teams' six wins in dual matches have been against Snider, Northrop, East Noble, Columbia City, Huntington North, and Bellmont. Their record in their conference is 3-1. They won against Snider, 174 to 218, by 34 points. Another win against Northrop was by 21 points, 179-210. Their last win in their conference was against Bellmont by 33 points, 177-220. Their one loss overall was to Dekalb, also in their conference, by 20 points, 151-171. They have also won two invitationals at Huntington North and the North Bruin Classic.

This golf season for the girls has been successful, but there are still more matches to be played. The girls have five matches left before sectionals.

"I think we can [go to state]. We definitely have the potential and the people. We just need to work hard" Jessica Sciortino said.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Sean Dulworth (10) goes for the ball during a game against Columbia City. The boys team reversed an 0-2 trend by defeating Columbia City 6-1.

Injuries hamper progress of the boys soccer team

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

It's June 19 at 8 a.m. While most high school students are still sleeping in during the middle of their summer vacation, the boys soccer team is hard at work on their first day of summer conditioning. The team spent pretty much every morning in the summer conditioning and doing drills to prepare themselves for tryouts and the upcoming season. Their training varied from the usual 20-minute warm-up jog, all the way to using bungee cords for resistance during drills. By the time the first day of tryouts on July 31 came, the team was prepared to start even more hard work.

After a week of tough tryouts, the varsity team was finally selected. The team is very young after a large graduating class. After returning only five full-time starters from last year's team, an important member of the team went down with a serious injury. All-conference defender Andy Rosenblatt (12) tore his ACL the day before summer conditioning started while playing in a travel game. Following surgery a few weeks later, Rosenblatt has been working hard at physical therapy and hopes to return in time to play in the sectionals and regionals.

"We looked intimidated right from the start and it showed. But it was our first game. The season is still very early, and we have a lot of time to improve and build a stronger team."

Tyler Lambert (12)
Boys Soccer Goalie

This greatly affected the team's strategy for the upcoming season. Due to the injury, several players were forced to change positions to fill open spots.

Co-captain Joe Salisbury (12), an all-conference forward last year, moved to fill the open spot as a central defender. Keagan Harkenrider (9) stepped up right away and filled the open spot as a forward and offensively-minded player. Another important player returning is Tom Gallmeyer (10) who gained all-conference recognition last year as a forward and the teams leading goal scorer. Gallmeyer will be teamed with Michael Cobb (12) to create a dangerous duo up top.

To start the season, the Spartans would face the number one team in the state, the Carmel Greyhounds. Starting only three seniors, there were players getting their first varsity experience throughout the starting lineup. Brent Helton (10), Grant Welter (10), and Joe Gallmeyer (9) were just a few players getting their first start in a varsity game.

Helton, a new student the moved to Fort Wayne the first day of tryouts, was hoping to make an impact in his first game. However, the young and inexperienced quickly proved to be no match for the State Runner Up Greyhounds.

"One thing that hurt us was their size and physical play," Co-captain Tyler Lambert (12) said. "We looked intimidated right from the start and it showed. But it was our first game. The season is still very early, and we have a lot of time to improve and build a stronger team."

The team is experimenting with several different lineups and formations to find which one clicks with the whole team. They know there may be some rough times early in the season but are confident they will be prepared for tough games later in the season and the post-season tournament.

The team also lost to East Noble on August 24, but managed to beat rival Columbia City on August 29. Their next match will be the Hoosier Tournament in Bloomington on September 1 and September 2.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Tom Gallmeyer (10) goes up for a header against Columbia City.

Seniors take part in dodgeball league

Graduated seniors were first to join league, games on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

By Laura Summers
Writer

Ever since the movie was released, there seems to have been a heightened interest in the game of dodgeball.

Several senior boys have joined a league at the Plex to participate in this sport. They are not the first, however, to participate in this sport that seems to be picking up steam as people across the nation join leagues and groups to play it.

Last year, a group of seniors were the first to join this dodgeball league. They told the seniors of this year's team how much fun they had, so the team is now in its second season.

Every year at school, junior and senior girls get to play in the Dirty Duckers tournament. This game is probably what caused the boys to want to play themselves, as several of them were "coaches" for the girls last year.

Nick Wirtner (12) is one of the members of this year's dodgeball team. Since this is his first year, the experience is new but very fun for him.

"The guys who played last year really made me want to be a part of it, so some of us got together and decided to play this year," Wirtner said.

There are only four teams in this men's league at The Plex, so they do not play in a tournament style competition. Every Saturday, each team plays two opponents at 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The season began two weekends ago on August 19. However, in order to determine the winner, the season will end with a tournament. The winning team will be given t-shirts labeling them as champions.

Presently, the team can be seen wearing their team dodgeball t-shirts to school on days that they have games. They do this to display teamwork and develop interest in the sport from other students.

The members on the team include Wirtner, Bob Rodenbeck (12), David Blake (12), Charley Jorgensen (12), Ryan Cicero (12), Taylor Pyle (12), Jack Rozman (12), and Joey Parker (12). Their coaches are Sam Van Horn (12) and Michael Cobb (12). It cost the team a total of $350 to become a part of the league. This team is the youngest in The Plex's men's league

So far, the team has played four games. Their record is 3-1, losing to only one team due to, as Wirtner described it, "questionable officiating."

"We're playing against a bunch of old guys, so we're having a pretty good time. We barely lost that one game, but I'm sure we will come back and beat them next time we play them," Wirtner said.

At the maximum, each team is allowed to have ten players. However, only six teammates can play at a time, so this team must substitute players in and out, each player having equal playing time.

"We're all friends on the team so we have a lot of fun when we're playing. We all do it for the love of the game and we always have a great time. I definitely encourage everyone to come out to watch and support us," Wirtner said.

The kid next door

Al Jennings (9) brings talent, drive to boys golf team

By Nick Arnold
Writer

Growing up anywhere else in the Midwest, Al Jennings III (9) would enjoy the status of being the premier junior golfer for miles. While others are relaxing during their summer, he is putting in eight hours a day of practice and exercise. At age two, he was already swinging a set of Fischer Price plastic clubs and by age five was ready for a full set. Today, at age fourteen, Jennings possesses the talent and work ethic that would set him apart from almost all of the competition. But Jennings happens to have grown up next-door to another golfer who possesses the same ability and determination, Erich Johnston (12), Homestead's number one golfer. While others might be discouraged by the fact that they couldn't even beat their own neighbor growing up, Jennings relishes it. He knew that Johnston was a great golfer and that playing with him would make him better. Realizing the fact that Johnston was older than he was, he knew he couldn't win all the time.

"It is such a privilege to be able to play with Erich," Jennings said. "He pushes me to get better."

Now that Jennings has grown older, the gap between the two has narrowed. Though Johnston is still more experienced, Jennings has begun to make a name for himself in the field of junior golf. He was the National Champion for his age group in the Golf Channel's Drive Chip and Putt competition, beating out hundreds of kids throughout the nation in various skills challenges.

Though this was a great achievement, Jennings considers another tournament to be perhaps his finest showing in competition. Starting the final round three shots behind the lead, he came back to win the Pepsi Little People's Golf Championship in 2004.

"It was probably my most memorable moment in a tournament," Jennings said.

In addition to being a champion on the national level, Jennings has dominated local and state competitions. He was the Indiana Golf Association's Player of the Year for his age group and came close to winning the Indiana Boy's State Junior Championship. Finishing fourth out of the 112 that qualified, Jennings advanced to the semifinals but failed to advance to the final match. Though he was disappointed, Jennings managed to defeat golfers that were almost five years older than him.

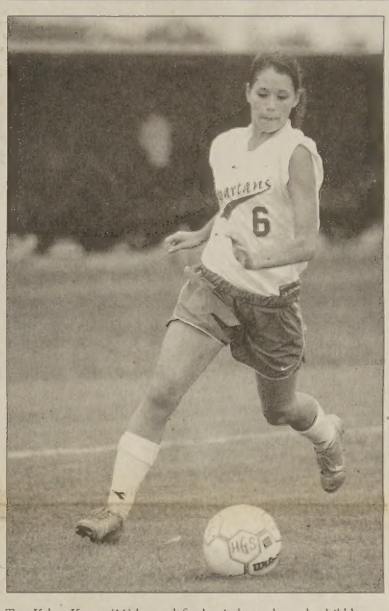
Not limiting his play to junior golf, he managed to qualify and make the cut at the Men's City Championship at age twelve. Due to participation in another tournament, Jennings was not able to compete in the City this year.

Jennings' success at such a young age has not gone unnoticed. Though he is just beginning his high school education, he has already been approached by numerous colleges. But for now, he remains focused on high school.

Though he has aspirations of playing basketball throughout high school, golf will become his focus in college. Like Homestead golf coach Rod Parker, he is looking forward to the upcoming spring season and what might be in store for the Spartans. He is excited to be able to play alongside Johnston in competition and to be a part of the team.

"We have a lot of talent this year," Jennings said. "If we work hard enough and focus to play our best, we can win state."

PHOTOS BY ZACH METRICK



Top: Kelsey Knapp (11) leaves defenders in her wake as she dribbles.
Above: Forward Leslie Straessle (12) attempts to kick the ball to her teammates during the recent East Noble game.

Girls soccer adjusts to new coaches

Kara Busse
Writer

The 2006 season for the girls soccer team comes with a lot of changes. The team lost ten players last year due to graduation, plus their varsity coach resigned.

The new coach of the varsity team is Jason Lee, who was also last year's assistant coach. This transition left the assistant coach position open and German teacher Dan Jaegar took advantage of the open slot. He was the assistant coach for the girls team up until his teaching load became too much.

"I'm very excited about being the assistant coach again. I finally have the time to coach compared to the previous years where my teaching load had been enough. I'm glad I get to work with this group of girls. If they keep doing what Jason has been getting them to do, I think they are able to go all the way to the state finals. They just have to be able to work hard," Jaegar said.

The rest of the team seems to feel the same way.

"At first I didn't think we would do well at all, but we have been playing really well the last two games. We are more fit than we were last year thanks to coach Jason, and because of that I think we will do better," Abby Paul (10) said.

Not only have the coaches changed this season, but so has the team itself. Because ten seniors left for college, the team has needed some new leaders.

"All five seniors have a certain quality that makes them a leader. Not only on the field, but off as well," Kate Bienz (10) said.

There have also been some new additions to the team. Jordan Webber (9) and Nicole Musi (9) are the two freshmen who have been selected on to the varsity team. The additions also include Kelsey Knapp (11). Knapp had previously run cross country, but this year she decided to play soccer. She has been playing soccer as a part of her travel team for many years, and now the rest of the varsity is glad she is apart of their team.

The girls' soccer team last year ended up losing only two games and this year are striving for an undefeated campaign. Their first game this season was against East Noble. The team won 10-0. Kari Gotschall (11) was the lead scorer for the game with two goals.

The team also beat Columbia City on Tuesday and played Bishop Dwenger on Wednesday.

The team plays against next Wednesday, September 5 against Bellmont at home.

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Doubles an important part of a winning equation

Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Double's tennis is a game of fast reactions, split-second decision making, and teamwork. More than anything, if a doubles tennis team is to be successful, it requires cooperation and coordination among teammates.

For the varsity tennis team, the doubles players are an integral part of the group's success. In order for the team to achieve the goals which the members of the team have envisioned for the 2006 season, doubles teams must perform well.

The number one team for Spartan tennis consists of Josh Rifkin (12) and Danny Reecer (11). The two combined have nearly 25 years of tennis experience but have only just begun to learn the tendencies of one another.

"We played some over the summer to get to know each other," Reecer said. "Eventually we'll get to the point where we can know what the other is going to do long before he does it."

"Doubles' is unique because your partner can help to motivate you and bring you up if you're having a bad match. You have do put trust in your partner because you can't do it all alone."

Josh Rifkin (12)
Number One Doubles Player

The team's number two team is comprised of Geoff Norton (11) and Rahul Gupta (11). However, the lineup of players is always subject to change depending upon what specific match situations require. For example, Nick Myers (11) has already partnered with Norton in one of the matches. Changes such as these seek to create a doubles team with good on-court chemistry because teamwork and dependability are such critical components of doubles' success.

The tennis team has had two matches thus far, coming out victorious in each. The first was against West Lafayette in which the Spartans won 3-2. The second of their matches led to a 5-0 team victory against Snider.

Doubles tennis in general is typified by an increase in play at the net, whereas singles tennis is, by and large, played more from the baseline.

"For me it's the net game that makes doubles fun," Rifkin said. "I have always had fast hands and good reflexes at net."

Beyond the strategic considerations, doubles' tennis is unique because it forces people to work together. In this sense, doubles' players learn skills that will help them not only in sport but in other areas as well. They learn the importance of teamwork, of placing trust in other people, how to be successful in group enterprises, and groups can feed off of one another.

"Doubles' is unique because your partner can help to motivate you and bring you up if you're having a bad match," Rifkin said. "You have do put trust in your partner because you can't do it all alone."

"Playing with a partner adds more excitement to the game," Norton said. "There is a higher energy level and the players are more vocal. You really feed off of the energy that your partner brings to the match."

Doubles players also require good communication skills to avoid confusion and ensure clarity. Communicating who will take a shot as well as what the team is trying to do strategically is essential to doubles' success.

"I like having someone there to talk to during the match," Reecer said. "It makes the match more fun to discuss the points with someone."

"In doubles you need to know what to expect from your partner to know what shots he will go for," Norton said. "Knowing his game and having good communication is vital."

The tennis team's success this year will be closely tied to the outcome of their doubles matches. In order to achieve a positive result the partners must not only hone their groundstrokes, perfect their serves, and improve their net play. Doubles' tennis also requires a fostering of friendship, improving communication, and developing trust. It is these larger lessons which transcend sport and will create a victorious varsity tennis program this season.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Top: Geoff Norton (11) and Rahul Gupta (11) congratulate each other after a match.
Above: Danny Reecer (11) and Josh Rifkin (12) relax in-between games during a recent match.

out of the blue

Boys, girls cross country teams look to shock local competition

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Above: Mike Townsend (11) and Brian Graham (11) run during the Huntington North Cross Country Invitational.

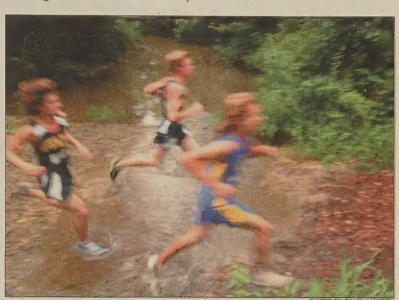
PHOTO BY GALEN HARDEN

Left: Meghan Terrell (11), the top girl runner, runs a time of 15:41 at the Huntington Cross Country Invitational. Terrell's time placed her second among NHC runners.
Above: Evan Hanley (10) runs across the creek at Huntington's cross country course. A boy's meet is run on a 3.19 mile course.

By Erin Quinn
Writer

Cross country runners typically don't stop running when their legs hurt, or when their lungs burn, or when their hearts feel like they are about to explode. They do not understand not to go out in wind, rain, heat advisory warnings, lightning, or snow. They don't know how to reach a complacent state, and they do not accept pain or obstacles as limits on their bodies and spirits. But, if there is one thing they do understand, it is tradition.

For the first time in a decade, Coach Sara Wyss' girls cross country team failed to earn a spot in the top five teams at the semi-state race last year. After ten years of traveling to Bloomington, and then Terre Haute for their most recent state appearance, Homestead was not represented at the state meet in 2005.

Wyss' program was one of the most established in the entire state of Indiana. Only one percent of all the other teams in Indiana have been able to compete at the state meet for ten consecutive years. Her teams had the unique ability to carry three or four state participants over from season to season, and many more who had witnessed what it took to go from a group of talented individual athletes to a unified, triumphant team.

When the streak ended last season with a disappointing tenth place semi-state finish, the Lady Spartans had three runners who had run in at least one state meet on the roster. Three girls and one coach knew the expectations and felt the burden of the generation before them; the generation who managed to accomplish the unthinkable, a decade of excellence and accomplishment.

Graduation and the lure of other sports left this year's team with only a single runner who had run in a state meet, completely altering the dynamics of Wyss' past teams. Seemingly, the team had lost its breed of experienced athletes and its unconquerable spirit. After years of being ranked in the top 15, 20, and last year, 25 teams in the state, preseason polls left Homestead out of the top 50.

Tradition runs deep, though, and the most significant aspect of Wyss' winning tradition is her possession of the will to fight. So Wyss started fighting before the season even began. Fighting to sway her Second Team All-Conference 3200 meter, First Team All-Conference 3200 meter relay track standout, Meghan Terrell (10) away from the volleyball court and outside onto the cross country course proved a challenge.

> The girls team faces the tough task of converting the raw talent and potential...into the steadfast racers that can compete against the top teams in the area.

Another battle involved bringing new recruits Ali Kattman (10), Sarah Parker (10), Collet Spears (10), and Haley Zimmerman (10) into the program. In addition, Wyss also heavily encouraged her returning varsity letters winners as well as incoming freshmen Chloe Smith (9), Carolyn Mutton (9), and Laura Donnell (9) to log in many miles over the summer.

Although Terrell made her "agonizing" decision only a week before official practices started, she had built up an adequate mileage base by running and working out throughout the summer months. By the first race, Terrell's importance to the team was established when she raced with the leading pack. Finishing fourth in a field of more than 150 at the Dekalb Invitational, Terrell shocked the local running enthusiasts who had failed to follow her decision to run and had already counted Homestead out of major contention. Terrell's time of 15:41 placed her second out of all the Northeast Hoosier Conference runners present.

Mutton, who finished 24th, and Kattman, who placed 47th, both stepped up in their very first high school race and accepted major roles on the team. The race was run at Dekalb, a fairly flat course, on August 15, the day before school started. Erin Blum (12), Beth Niner (12), Smith, and Carolyn Case (9) rounded off the top seven, which constitutes the varsity team.

"It was hard to adjust from the middle school races to the high school races. The distance is longer, so that changes the whole strategy. Also I want from being at the front last year to the middle of the peak this year," Smith said.

Coach Dick Shenfeld's boy's cross country team also competed for the first time at Dekalb, with less success. With two top runners injured and others feeling less than great, the team was led by Andrew Schroeder (12), followed closely by Evan Hanley (10), but struggled compared to the competition present. Times were very slow compared to how the boys had been practicing and it left many shaking their heads.

Both the girl's and the guy's second race was the Huntington Invitational, where unlike their first race, the field was separated into girls varsity, boys varsity, girls reserve, and boys reserve. Terrell placed third with a time of 15:57, and Kattman finished 32nd, followed by Mutton, Niner, Smith, Blum, and Case. An overall fifth place team finish at the meet among powerhouse teams like Carroll, Franklin Central, and Dekalb proved that Wyss' inexperienced, yet talented and motivated group of runners have hope for more than a "rebuilding" season.

The boys fared better on Huntington's 5k course, led by Brian Graham (11) in 17:36 and Mike Townsend (11) in 17:38. Hanley, Donny Heath (9), Schroeder, Colin Lyman (10), and Brandon Saalfrank (11) also contributed to the varsity team score and helped earn a seventh place team finish.

SEASON SCHEDULE

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

08.31 @ Wayne Invitational 4:45PM
09.09 @ Northrop Bruin Invitational 9:00AM
09.16 @ West Noble Invitational 9:30AM
09.23 @ Shoaff Park Snider Classic 9:00AM
09.30 @ IPFW N. Haven Invitational 9:00AM
10.04 @ IPFW NHC 5:00PM
10.05 @ Bellmont JV Invitational 5:00PM
10.10 Sectional @ IPFW 4:30PM
10.14 Regional @ Bellmont 10:30AM
10.21 Semi-State @ IPFW 10:30AM
10.28 State @ Terre Haute 1:00PM

On Wednesday, August 23, both teams traveled to Foster Park to face Bishop Luers and Snider.

The boys team dominated the meet, with Schroeder winning the meet and the top five runners scoring 16 points, just one point worse than the best possible. Although local powerhouses like Snider held back most of their varsity team for the race, the race was a confidence booster for a team that was still searching for an identity. The JV team swept its race, led by Danny White (12) and Saalfrank.

Terrell led the team with a strong second place finish at Foster Park, followed by a close pack consisting of Mutton, Blum, Kattman, and Niner. Capturing six of the top ten places, the Lady Spartans won the meet with 22 points, compared to Snider's 35.

Led by seniors Blum, Niner, Amanda Kingsbery (12), Hannah Smith (12), and Cara Smith (12) the girls team faces the tough task of converting the raw talent and potential of all the new runners into the steadfast racers that can compete against the top teams in the area. Leadership from Terrell, who earned runindiana.com's "Runner Of the Week" award for her performances at both of the invitationals, will greatly improve the team's overall standing.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Colin Lyman (10) and Evan Hanley (10) pass runners before the first mile mark. Lyman and Hanley are both varsity runners.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Ali Kattman (10) sprints out two other runners at the end of the Huntington North race.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Erin Blum (12) and Carolyn Case (9) try to keep up with the lead pack near the end of a recent cross country invitational.

issue 2 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
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the Spartana

Mark one up

The varsity cheer team including Kadie Remelfanger (12) took third at the NHC despite a music malfunction that forced them to perform twice. Page 3B

Friday, September 22, 2006

District releases drug survey results

Survey shows drop in drug, alcohol use, less than 2% positive drug tests in '05

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

The results of last spring's survey were released to district social worker Anita Gross last month and were released to the public Tuesday, at the school board meeting. The survey results suggest that less students are using marijuana and alcohol. Drug testing results for last year were also released.

Every third year since 1997, Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) has distributed a survey put together by Indiana University which helps individual districts gauge drug and alcohol related issues within the district as well as comparisons with results throughout the state of Indiana.

Of the results, three of the substances, cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana, were presented at the board meeting.

In 2003, the last time the survey was administered, SACS juniors and seniors were both above the state average for students reporting cigarette use at least once a month. In 2006, cigarette use was below the state average.

The 2003 survey showed that SACS students reporting alcohol use during the last month was above the state level throughout high school, but in 2006, only seniors reporting alcohol use were above the state average.

With marijuana, 4% of freshmen reported smoking pot in the past month while sophomores reported 10%, juniors reported 13%, and

see RESULTS, on page 2A

Kassie Heinzman (10) at the band's halftime performance.

With early wins, band prepares for state competition

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

The Spartan Alliance Band began their season with three weeks of band camp and has now won two competitions. The band is once again under the direction of Brad Wadkins and Steve Barber. Wadkins, who has been assistant director for 14 years, looks forward to seeing the band grow and change. Students are also optimistic about the band's future, and hope to achieve the level of perfection demanded of them.

The band is welcoming several changes this year, including new uniforms.

"The new uniforms make us look better and aren't as complicated to put on and take off," Evan Snyder (10) said.

Other changes will bring the ISSMA District competition here instead of Northrop, as well as the addition of visual judges who are on the performance field instead of the bleachers.

"Visual judges evaluate a band based on its marching," Francesca Cardillo (12) said. "The technique style has to be the same from person to person, feet in time, forms have to be clean. They notice all of those things."

Freshman and marching band newcomer Kelly Stace (9) describes band as "exhilarating." While some freshmen may have been worried

see BAND, on page 2A

BRIEFS

TEACHER UNOPPOSED IN ELECTION

Social studies teacher Keith Potter and two other Republican candidates for the Aboite Township Board of Trustees won the March primary. All three candidates remain unopposed as they head into the November election. Due to this fact, very little campaigning has taken place. If elected, Potter will take office on Jan. 1. His term would be four years. The Aboite Township Board, formerly called the Advisory Board, is put in place as a check on the Aboite Township Trustees. The Board approves the township's budget and other funding matters.

ISTEP TESTING CONCLUDES

Testing was conducted Wednesday through Thursday. The Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) was administered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for sophomores. Freshmen students took a "pre" GQE test. As part of a pilot program for the state, sophomores were administered an additional test on Friday. Students normally perform in the top ten percent of high schools for the state. Upperclassmen who passed the ISTEP+ tests job shadowed or visited college campuses on Tuesday. Assistant principal Steve Lake was the testing coordinator, and counselor Thomas Quigley was the test administrator.

STUDENTS BREATHALIZED

At least one student's vehicle was searched prior to the Homecoming football game. Several students as a result of that search were breathalized, and one was suspended out of school for five days.

PAGE 2A, News : Front page news continued
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial : The editorial board speaks out on the county smoking ban
PAGE 4A, Life: College entrance tests
PAGE 5A, Life: Teacher Gregory Fryzel writes about his years as a monk
PAGE 6A, Life: Brad Lufkin takes a look at Bob Dylan's newest album "Modern Times"
PAGE 7A, Life: Movie reviews by Chris Purdy: "The Last Kiss," and three others
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: Homecoming 2006 in photographs: the game, the crowd, the band, and bonfire
PAGE 1B, Sports: Girls soccer wins conference
PAGE 2B, Sports: Girls cross country places third at West Noble without top runner Meghan Terrell (10)
PAGE 3B, Sports: Cheerleading takes third at NHC after forced to perform show twice
PAGE 4B, Sports: Varsity football undefeated through five games

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Homecoming king Alberto Corona (12) and queen Amanda Clay (12) pose for a photo after the crowning. Other court nominees and their family members react to the coronation.

Band student takes crown again, voting process analyzed

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

It seems that in the messy world of high school politics, the election for Homecoming Court can pass without the trouble of pregnant chads or a final ruling from the Supreme Court. Most students chalk it up to a popularity contest, but the process is wholly democratic and includes pseudo-campaigns that have won a band member a place on the court four times in the past six years.

Homecoming coronation is run by student government. This year, Molly Rodenbeck (12) oversaw the preparation for elections. Students voted for their top eight choices and the ballots were taken home not by a student, but by the school's own form of the Supreme Court: economics teacher April Moss.

"I do count all the ballots myself, both for the court and for king and queen," Moss said. "I do this for Homecoming, Prom, and all Student Government elections - no students ever count any ballots."

Moss received 1,818 ballots for court; the number falls short of the school population due to variances such as absences and blank or incorrectly marked ballots. Because the entire school votes for four male and four female candidates from the approximately 500 students in the senior class, most students agree that nominations for court start randomly.

"There isn't a band effort to get a specific person on the [court] ballot," Brian Marks

see Analysis, on page 2A

Week's events bring students together

By Kara Hackett
Writer

Pajamas, cowboy gear, a moment of silence a football game and a roaring fire made up the festivities of Homecoming. Many students participated in the events. It brought students together

The football game and bonfire was the finale of many events for Homecoming week. The festivities began on Monday, September 11th. Each day of the week, students were asked to dress according to particular themes selected by Student Government. Monday's theme was red, white, and blue, in remembrance of September Eleventh. On Tuesday, students lassoed up as cowboys and cowgirls. Wednesday was pajama day. On Thursday, students dressed in the attire of the college of their choice, and Friday was once again spirit wear day.

As the week progressed, students began to gain enthusiasm and school spirit as they anticipated the bonfire. Emily Potts (9) displayed

see HOMECOMING, on page 2A

Football stays perfect after five

With win over Bellmont, team tied for first place in conference with Norwell

By Chris Ray
Writer

East Noble, Columbia City, and Bellmont were added to the list of victims for the varsity football team, who improved their record to 5-0 and 3-0 in conference play. The Spartans, who have been hot all year, are now ranked tenth in the state in the 5A Class.

SCOREBOARD
Homestead 42
Bellmont 7

On Friday, Sept. 1, the team played a tough and talented East Noble team, who were said to have the best running back in the conferen-

see FOOTBALL, on page 4B

Ryan Wright (11) catches a pass from Jordan Wise (12) during the East Noble Game. It was ruled no catch.

Staph infection outbreak

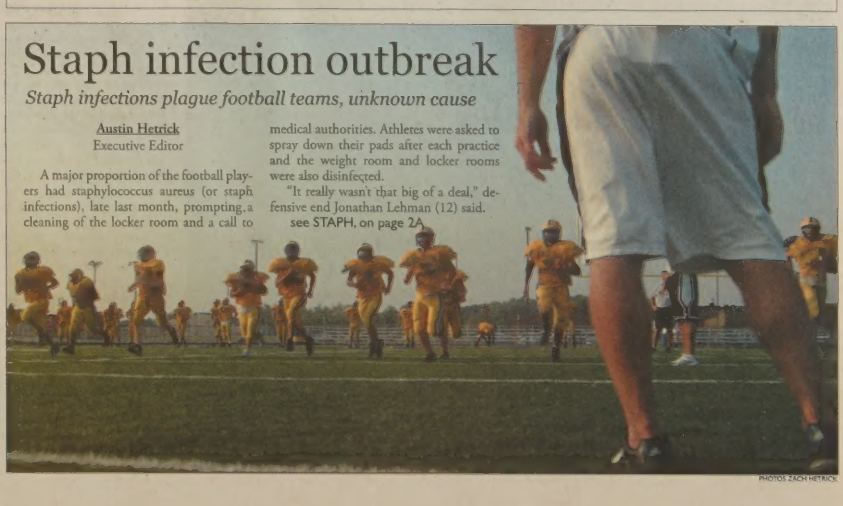
Staph infections plague football teams, unknown cause

Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

A major proportion of the football players had staphylococcus aureus (or staph infections), late last month, prompting a cleaning of the locker room and a call to medical authorities. Athletes were asked to spray down their pads after each practice and the weight room and locker rooms were also disinfected.

"It really wasn't that big of a deal," defensive end Jonathan Lehman (12) said.

see STAPH, on page 2A



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Homecoming, continued from 1

her enthusiasm, saying, "From what I've heard about previous years, it sounds fun. I can't wait for this year's Homecoming."

Many freshmen were eager for Homecoming to arrive because it was their first chance to take part in a high school event.

Brooke Deady (9) said, "I'm excited to finally be able to go to Homecoming, and I can't wait to have a great time."

Such enthusiasm is expected from Freshmen; however, in the past, it has been difficult to convince upperclassmen to participate in Homecoming events. To better accommodate the older students, last year, Student Government changed the traditional Homecoming dance to a bonfire.

"The bonfire has a much better turn out. Usually only freshman would come to dances, but the bonfire brings everybody because it's just a place to hang out," explained Student Government member, Leslie Straessle (12).

This year's Homecoming bonfire consisted of a live performance by Hot Sundae, sumo wrestling competitions, football and Frisbee recreation, inflatable activities, and of course, a bonfire. Pizza and pop were also provided for students during the event, which lasted until midnight.

Sara Nettleton (10) described her experience by saying, "It was fun, and I liked the bonfire and the band. I also liked that it wasn't a traditional dance."

Christy Tatara (10) agreed that dancing to the live band music was the highlight of the night, and said, "It was really fun because I went with all of my friends."

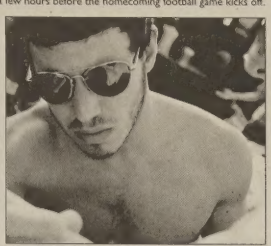
Other events, such as the pep-session, took place before the bonfire. The pep-session consisted of the recognition of coaches and teams, a performance by the Hip-Hop Team, and a Tug-o-War competition between the Varsity cheerleaders and selected football players.

Homecoming King and Queen were also crowned prior to the bonfire. During halftime of the Varsity football game, the Homecoming Court was recognized, and the king and queen were announced. Alberto Corona (12) was named king and the Homecoming queen was Amanda Clay (12). Those who did not attend Homecoming this year are strongly encouraged to take part in the event next year.

"Simply show up and have some school spirit. It is just a place to have fun," Straessle said.

"You don't even have to do anything," Meghan O'Connor (10) said. "You can just sit and talk with friends. Who doesn't want to do that?"

Seniors Bob Rodenbeck, Michael Cobb, and David Blake grill a few hours before the homecoming football game kicks off.



Adam Lill (12) paints Michael Cobb before the game.

Analysis, continued from 1

PHOTOS ZACH METRICK

Senior Alberto Corona following his coronation.

(12) said. "Band students just vote for their friends who tend to also be in band, and one person usually gets a lot."

But, random or not, the past four years have been dominated by kings from the band. In 2003, Shaun Fox was elected, followed by David Gehrig in 2004. The one outlier is Mitch Haifley, a non-band member elected in 2005. Alberto Corona (12), a trumpet player, was elected in this year's election.

It's after the nomination round ends that the band campaign begins. With over 65 seniors eligible to vote for king and queen, the band is emerging as a political force to be reckoned with in the school.

Casting about 25% of the 275 final ballots received this year, many band students effectively rallied to vote for the nominated member, this year, Alberto Corona.

"Once a band person is [on court], then there is an effort to have everyone vote for that person," Marks said.

"Usually they always put the name of the person to vote for on the board for everyone to see," Corona said. He argues, however, that his election was a culmination of votes from within and outside of the band.

"I didn't really notice how many people I know till this year because, now that I think about it, I say 'hi' to someone literally each second in the halfway," Corona said. "I have a lot of friends outside of band that came up to me and said they voted for me."

Homecoming court has often been criticized as being nothing more than a simple popularity contest. Some students also contend that the election is rigged.

While students have no control over how the ballots are tallied, they appear to have a great force in the election process. Moss agrees that while it may be a popularity contest, it parallels any democratic election. Furthermore, the election is not biased toward any single candidate, and very little actual campaigning is undertaken by any of the candidates.

"All voting, whether for President of the United States or Homecoming King, is, in a sense, a 'popularity contest,'" Moss said. "People vote for candidates they like, admire, respect, look up to, and would like to emulate.

Band, continued from 1

about mixing grade levels in band, Stace believes that the influence of upperclassmen on younger students is a positive one.

"The seniors and juniors have been very helpful, especially while marching on the field," Stace said.

But being a senior isn't as easy as it looks. Seniors want to help develop future leadership in underclassmen for years to come.

"You want to make a good impression on the underclassmen so they'll know what to do and how to lead once you're gone," Cardillo said. "You have to find a fine balance between pushing the other members too hard and not pushing enough."

No matter what year in high school they are, all members spent long summer hours working on their show.

"Band has taught me that nothing comes without hard work," Hopi Castillo (11) said. The general consensus is that "tech-day," which was held on August 26, was the students' least favorite part of band.

"We clean drilled all day," Castillo said, "It was definitely not fun."

When a wrong note is played or a performance is below par, the band member at fault is required to get down on the ground and do push-ups.

"If an underclassman talks too much, an upperclassman can give them push-ups, even excellence isn't an art, it's a habit."

"Though they don't usually listen to the upperclassmen," Snyder said. "If the whole band is talking or doesn't do something right when the directors clearly state it, they give us all twenty."

As a drum major Ben Nichter (12) is looking forward to the state competition in Indianapolis. The band has made it to state for 19 consecutive years and hopes to make this year the 20th.

Several members of the Spartana Alliance band drum line practice their routine before the halftime show.

At their first competition, the band placed first at Lafayette Jefferson with Penn in second and Laporte in third, and was recognized with awards for best marching, best pit crew, and best general effect. While they won the competition, some members felt that their performance wasn't as good as it could have been.

"It was better during the run-through before the show," Snyder said.

The band will perform every week in a competition until the state competition in October. They hope to triumph at state over their longtime rivals, including Avon High School from Indianapolis.

The band also won their second competition of the year held at Concord High School. Changes, band camp, and competitions notwithstanding, the band looks to finishing a great season.

"This year has been great," Evan Hanley (10) said. "It's hard as always but it's fun and definitely worth it because we're so good and it pays off in competition. After all those hard hours of work, excellence isn't an art, it's a habit.

Results, continued from 1

seniors reported 17%. In 2003, students who reported marijuana use was above the state average throughout high school, but last year was below the state average across the board.

This year's results have come under increased scrutiny due to SACS beginning several programs aimed at combating drug and alcohol use in the district.

The SRO (Student Resource Officer) program is in its third year, the drug testing program is in its second year, and the 2006-2007 school year marked the first year for the addition of the K-9 Unit, Hunter.

"All of it is a part of the program NAND started…the drug testing and the dog are just pieces of that overall program. The dog is looking at deterring [students] from bringing substances to school… The drug testing is for students who are in extracurriculars, those that are drivers, who have an obligation to [abstain] from illegal use. The drug testing focuses on deterring students from using at all," Gross said.

In all, about 11% of students taking the survey said they had used marijuana in the past month, percentages that are down considerably from the 2003 survey.

"I think students know that with drug testing marijuana is the most likely substance to be tested for. This is where we had the greatest reduction in use," Gross said.

Gross also commented that it is difficult to tell whether the reduction had any direct correlation with the deterrence factor that she hopes accompanies drug testing.

"The whole idea of the testing program is to allow students to not fall into peer pressure by being able to say, 'Look, they do drug testing here, and I can't jeopardize my ability to drive or my ability to participate in extracurriculars.' So we're not out to statistically match those numbers

> *"A lot of people like to argue about taking a larger sample as a better [representation] and they miss the whole point... We simply want to give the student body a good reason to say no."*
>
> **Dr. Brian Smith**
> Superintendent

up…" Superintendent Brian Smith said.

However, the statistics show that while 11% of students said last spring that they had smoked pot in the past month, the drug testing program flagged 10 out of 500 urine samples as positive, a percentage of only 2%.

This statistic clashes with the survey result, which indicated that more students should have tested positive with the original testing process set in place early last year.

Marijuana also stays in the body longer, with trace amounts remaining for up to six weeks. However, Gross says the tests cannot detect marijuana for that long a period after it is used with the district's current method.

"Any drug test has a cut-off to protect against false positives," Gross said.

Gross also offered a few explanations for the discrepancy between survey results and drug testing results.

"They are looking at two different things. The questions on the survey are student reported…the drug test is only looking at what is in the child's body right then," Gross said.

Gross also noted that the sample does not cover the entire school, however it does encompass most of the students at the high school level.

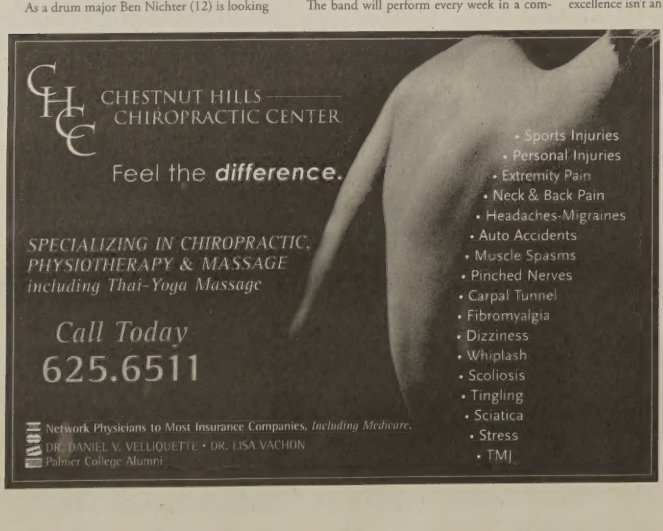
However, Smith does not believe a larger sample is the goal of the project.

"A lot of people like to argue about taking a larger sample as a better [representation] and they miss the whole point… We simply want to give the student body a good reason to say no," Smith said. But are students saying no? Many students don't think so.

"Kids don't do drugs all the time, so you're not going to catch them all the time. They only do it on 'party weekends,' so they're just not getting caught," Sarah Causillas (12) said.

Despite some student's views, Gross thinks the district is making progress.

"A lot of people say 'Well, kids are doing drugs and they're always going to do drugs, and there's nothing you can do about it.' I don't think that's true. I didn't before, and I believe the research has substantiated that. You can do something about it. You can make a difference."



Staph, continued from 1

"It looks nasty, but the doctors just give you antibiotics and it went away pretty quickly."

Lehman says that at one point as many as six or seven of the varsity team had infections. Many more of the Freshmen team had staph infections.

Football head coach and math teacher Chad Zolman said he had never before experienced an outbreak this large. He had heard of infections of this magnitude in wrestling, but never in high school football.

Some speculated that the turf football field was responsible for the infections. According to physicians (including John M. Dorman of Stanford University School of Medicine) abrasions players receive from the turf (also known as "turf burns") open player's systems to the bacteria that causes staph infections.

Some NFL teams have experienced problems with the infections, most notably the St. Louis Rams in 2003. Three-fifths of that team's players received a prescription antibiotic. Rams players reported two-three turf burns each week. Scientists and researchers have concluded that the turf itself does not contribute to the spread of the infections, because it is not an hospitable environment for the bacteria. None of the athletes interviewed reported having turf burns.

Staphylococcus aureus infections (also known as staph infections) are relatively common. According to WebMD.com, 25-30% of Americans have some form of staph bacteria in them. One particular strain of staph infections is Methicillin-resistant Staph.

Symptoms are a mild infection on the skin, causing pimples or boils. It can also cause a more serious infection on the skin, or infect the bloodstream, lungs, or urinary tract. MRSA is especially dangerous because it has developed immunities to some common antibiotics. Infections are most common in individuals with weak immune systems or are living in hospitals, nursing homes, or other health care centers. It is also found in sports teams.

page 3A
issue 2 volume 37
homestead high school
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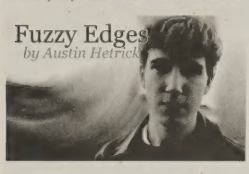
Opinion

Keep resident porker in line

Dear News-Sentinel sports team,

I'm writing to you about a loose porker on your staff, some cowardly editorial writer who won't state his real name and goes by the alias of "The Pigskin Prophet," or "Pig" for short. Not only is your resident slab of bacon arro-



gant, he's also dead wrong.

In his Sept. 7 column titled "The Pig sits down to a big helping of outrage—Artificial turf, corporate sponsorship in high school!?!," the pig shot off his mouth at my school, accusing district leaders of wasting taxpayer money on a synthetic field.

The Pig argues that the money SACS spent on a synthetic field in 2004 should have been spent inside the school, where "some educational purpose" might have been served, or, better yet, the taxpayer could receive a rebate. The Pig offers another alternative for our district's funds: he says that we should spread the money around the school system (he means around other school systems), so that other, less fortunate high schools can have the same opportunities as we do.

As you are a farm animal, let frame my response to you in terms you'll understand: your arguments amount to a rather ugly, pitiful pile of manure. Here's why:

• We decided to buy an artificial field because we thought it would save us money in the long run by being used for more activities, and requiring less funds for maintenance than a typical grass field.

• The price difference between rebuilding our natural field at that time and the money we spent on turf was less than $100,000.

• After a year of debate and research our elected officials decided it was in the best interest of the district to spend funds on the turf. The football field had not been renovated since the school had opened, 30 years before.

But of all your arguments, it was your suggestion that we donate our cash to needy school districts to "teach students about helping their fellow man," that threw me the most. Obviously you're not aware that when taxpayers help their school system, pay higher property taxes--when the local music and athletic booster programs band together to raise funds—taxpayers want that money spent on their children, to help their district; not to be mismanaged away in some other part of the state.

Public education is not equal around the state. Not every district can afford what we can afford. But to suggest that we should send our money elsewhere to districts we'd never hear from again sounds like madness to me.

Pig, old pal, you screwed up. Your arguments are based not on the facts of our decision to purchase a turf field (all of which I drew from past issues of your newspaper), but instead on your idealistic view of the way things ought to be. Idealism is fine, heck, communism doesn't bother me that much either. But when you attack my school system from your arrogant, "holier-than-thou" position, you've gone too far.

Pigs are by nature, stupid animals. So perhaps we can't blame the poor pork-fritter himself for this inexcusable rant, but instead should blame the News-Sentinel editors who clean his pen. The next time, perhaps you'll keep this tub of lard from embarrassing himself, and insulting others.

Regards,
Austin Hetrick

CARTOON BY SHANE LUTRELL

Public smoking ban should be passed

53,800 – that's the average number of non-smoking people who die each year from secondhand smoke, according to the surgeon general: 2,300 children from SIDS, 48,500 adults from heart disease, and 3,000 adults from lung cancer. There are 3077 counties in the United States; and that means that (on rough average) 18 people will die this year in Allen County because of secondhand smoke: one child by SIDS, one adult by lung cancer, and 16 adults by heart disease.

The Board of Commissioners for Allen County is considering an addition to the health code which would prohibit smoking in public places, designated outdoor venues, and all places of employment in the county.

This amendment would protect the non-smokers who die each year in this county because of secondhand smoke. The amendment does not prohibit smokers from enjoying tobacco in their homes, cars, or outdoors (with a few exceptions). It is designed for one purpose: to protect the rights of innocent citizens exposed to secondhand smoke in public places. It is not the result of a vendetta against smoking or tobacco.

Those opposed to the amendment have argued that "personal choice trumps health." Furthermore, they point to the economic impact of such a ban, which they believe would be detrimental to local business. They believe that business owners have the right to decide whether or not to allow smoking in their facilities and that individuals who do not want to be exposed to the smoke have the right to go elsewhere.

This argument is flawed, however. Many customers remain unaware of the dangers of secondhand smoke, dangers which remain even in restaurants where the smoking section is separated from the non-smoking. Furthermore, many patrons bring their children to restaurants, and what child will tell his parent that he would like to choose another restaurant because he fears for his safety? Employees too, have little choice: they must choose between their health and their livelihood, a choice no employee should face.

The government has a history of protecting its citizens; it is, after all, the purpose of government. Drunk driving is illegal because it is harmful to individuals other than the driver. Likewise, pollution is regulated, workplaces have safety requirements, and businesses must abide by a health code provided to ensure public health and safety.

Secondhand smoke represents a similar risk to society, and the government owes its non-smoking citizens the measure of safety a smoking ban in public places would provide.

If the government has no right to interfere here, how many bodies does it take to constitute an issue where the government can interfere? How many people need die each year before the smokers' habit is recognized as illegal in public places? 1? 18? 30? 1,000? How many bodies will suffice?

Government was created to protect the rights of all its citizens, and life has been recognized time and time again as being more important than some liberties. While smoking in public places is one of these liberties, secondhand smoke costs lives in our county each year, and government has the chance to put an end to its effects on non-smokers. The editorial board urges the Board of Commissioners for Allen County to vote in favor of the proposed amendment.

Kimmel: 'Two weeks that flipped my perspective'

They say life can change in an instant. They warn against taking anything for granted, because at any time it can be stripped away. And while I agree with these statements, "they" also say that "sticks and stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me."

And up until a few weeks ago, I hadn't given this heavily overused cliché much thought. Sure, in elementary school our J.A. officers worked hard at building up our fragile little self-esteems by warning against teasing, ridicule, and, yes, gossip. But I never really gave much thought to it, until now.

Many of you know where I'm going with this. You've heard some version of the myth (and I assure you, that's what it is, a myth). And many of you just laughed it off. But many have helped it along, spreading a seemingly insignificant rumor that surely would have no long-term impact on the reputations of the two people involved.

Only you were wrong.

But I'm not writing to you, the student body, to ridicule. I'm not here to condemn. I'm not here to yell and scream and stomp my feet. I'm here to encourage. I'm here to expose the harmful effects gossip can have on innocent people's reputations. But most importantly, I'm here to show that even in the worst situation, there is always something positive to take from it…if you take the time to look.

Fortunately for me, I took the time. And even amidst the ridicule and harsh jokes that were shot at me from every direction, I have learned a very powerful lesson. Less than a month ago, I would have never imagined something like this could happen at our school, at my school. But it did. A single spark ignited a wildfire, and few were spared from its wrath. But what scares me the most is the frequency at which things like this occur. People's reputations are torn down everyday, and many times the person has no chance to defend himself.

I believe we gossip for attention, for power, for revenge, for the pure thrill. Whatever the reason, it's not right. It's hurtful. It ruins people's days, people's lives. And for what? What do we gain from it? A moment. One moment where we are the one everyone is listening to.

For a single moment, the spotlight is on us. But that's all it is, a moment. And when that moment undoubtedly passes by, it takes a piece of us with it each time.

And we all do it. I am certainly not immune. Though I did not condone gossip before this incident, I partook on occasion. As have all of you reading this today. But after having the opportunity to see the effects gossip can have on the victim, I have made a decision to curb my involvement in damaging gossip, and I encourage all of you to do the same. Not for my sake, but for yours. Because there will come a day when it is you who is suddenly under the microscope. One day it will be you who is hesitant to walk the hallways because of what they might say, of what they might think. So I simply ask you to stop. We are all playing a dangerous game, one that will eventually catch up with us.

These past several weeks have been a dark time in my life. I have been hate-filled, angry, hurt, and confused. But I have not let it deter me. I have not let it discourage me. In fact, I believe today that I am a stronger person than I was on that fateful Monday when the inferno first began.

My true friends have stepped up to encourage me, to pray for me, and to give me strength. I was stunned at the tremendous speed at which this rumor traveled, but equally stunned at the support I have received from those who I can now confidently call friends. If I could go back, there is no doubt I would omit this unfortunate event from my life, but I don't have that option. I can only push through and accept the hand I've been dealt.

So I will move on. I will move on now with another lesson learned to add to my arsenal of lessons learned. And I will not be bitter, but rather I will walk with confidence, knowing I have taken a negative situation and flipped it on its head.

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

page 4
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life

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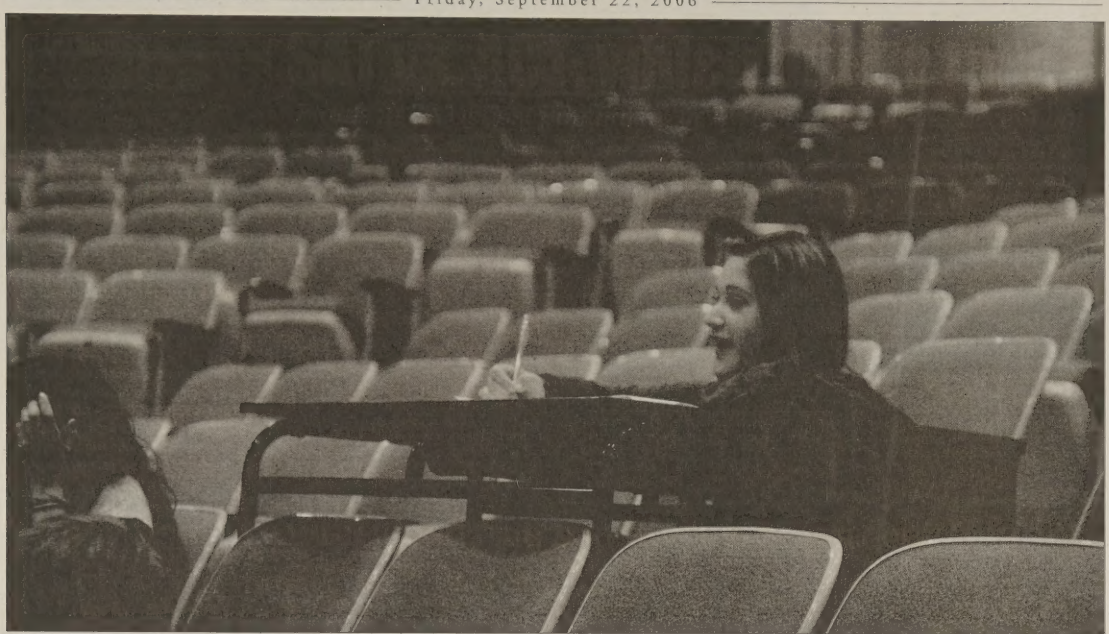
Friday, September 22, 2006



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Drama director takes the stage

Replacing former drama director Ed Koczergo, new director Julie Fisher plans to 'continue tradition of excellence'

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

For some, the approaching season means one thing and one thing only: a chance to act in the fall play. This year the play will be "Arsenic and Old Lace," written by Joseph Kesselring in 1939 and first performed in 1941. Julie Fisher, a Ball State graduate, the new theater and communications teacher announced she decision two weeks ago. She will direct the fall play and spring musical later this year. TJ McCombs, head of the math department and an established community actor, will be the assistant director.

"I feel quite fortunate to be in such a well-respected program," Fisher said. "I hope to continue the tradition of excellence that has been created here at Homestead."

Auditions are Sept. 25, with call backs if necessary. In a break from past policy, Fisher and McCombs will hold auditions where actors will read "cold;" they will have never read the script prior to auditioning. The play calls for a cast of 14: three women and 11 men. Once cast, actors will first read through the script on Thursday the 28th.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" was made famous by the 1944 movie starring Cary Grant. The play centers around two old women who murder old men with arsenic and a theater-hating drama critic who must deal with his crazy family as he debates with marrying the woman he loves.

> *"I feel quite fortunate to be in such a well-respected program. I hope to continue the tradition of excellence that has been created here."*
>
> **Julie Fisher**
> Drama Director

Fisher replaces Ed Koczergo, who was transferred to Woodside Middle School at the close of the last school year, where he currently teaches English. Last year's "Cabaret" marked Koczergo's 100th show, and concluded his 25th year as director. Over his last two years as director Koczergo had drawn criticism from the administration over several of the shows he wanted to produce. While student-actors had grown familiar with Koczergo, some look forward to the change.

"Having a new director will allow all students to audition without predetermined ideas by the director about each individual," Phil Thompson (12) said.

"I am so excited about the drama department this year," Meg Warner (12) said. "Mr. Koczergo was a good director, but I look forward to working with and learning from Miss Fisher. To me the play and musical are fun, challenging activities, which I love to participate in every year."

"I feel very privileged and honored to have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Koczergo in the past," said established Homestead performer, Greg Kyes-Myland (11). "However, we cannot let things that are out of our control (that we can't affect) get in the way of doing the things that we love. I feel that Miss Fisher will do an excellent job of working not only with the students, but also the administration and everyone else who is involved in the drama department."

Fisher hopes to keep many of the traditions that preceded her in place. Her job is a difficult one, however. As director her position will require her to choose and cast shows, construct sets, manage rehearsals, actors, and work closely with the sound and lighting staffs. To add to her complicated schedule, Fisher is engaged to be married and will be moving soon.

"Change is always difficult but I am sure we will all work well together and have some great productions," Allison Douglas (12) said. "I am looking forward to the year."

Fisher studied theater as well as speech, telecommunications, and secondary education. She is a native of Goshen.

CLUB BRIEFS

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The next meeting will be held Oct 10. Members should pay their $15 dues. Sign up for IMC tutoring in Mr. Clough's room, participate in the Care Workshop on the first and third Tuesday of each month, or help with the custodian breakfast on Oct. 5.

SPEECH & DEBATE

The Speech and Debate team will meet on Tuesdays starting Oct. 10. The first Debate meet is Oct 7.

KEY CLUB

The student led volunteer organization meets Thursdays in the community room from 2:50 to 3:15. Key club just donated 150,000 pop tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities and is now collecting school supplies through the end of the month.

SAT vs. ACT: which one to take?

Flaws in SAT boost popularity of ACT, many colleges accept both

By David Greco
Writer

When standardized testing time rolls around, most students cringe at the thought of being trapped for hours on end answering questions that could help determine their future.

Colleges across the country use standardized test scores as a factor in the admission process each fall.

While the SAT is generally more recognized, college admissions boards have recently been drawn to the ACT partly because of the SAT's recently unearthed flaws, according to a March article by Ramin Setoodeh published in Newsweek magazine.

In October 2005, Pearson Educational Measurement, the company in charge of grading the SAT test, incorrectly scored nearly 5,000 tests. High school students were outraged to find out that their test scores were possibly off by hundreds of points.

As well as the grading problems, the SAT's new essay section has caused colleges to drift away from the test. Critics say that the essay, to be written in 25 minutes, encourages formulaic writing

Despite the differences, many college-bound students send in both SAT and ACT scores.

"When I applied to college, I just sent in both scores," Andrew Southwood, a sophomore at Indiana University, said.

As underclassmen plan for the application process, many are aware of the benefit of having two options.

"When I apply to college, I'll send in both the SAT and ACT scores," Tarun Jain (10) said. "I want to show the colleges that I'm experienced in test taking."

Even though the SAT has lost its preeminence over the years, many students still take the test instead of the ACT because of the subject material.

"I prefer the SAT over the ACT," Duncan Rodman (11) said. "It lets me stand out in the subjects I do well in."

The main differences between the tests are structure and scoring: the ACT is a four-section exam including Math, Reading, English, and Science Reasoning and has no penalty for incorrect answers. The SAT has ten sections that consist of three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one essay. It also carries a penalty for wrong answers.

While these tests may be very different in several ways, the Princeton Review stated that students forget that both the SAT and ACT measure one thing: how well they take a standardized test. However, critics of the SAT say that it measures strictly test-taking skills, whereas the ACT tests students over material learned in school.

The Princeton Review reminds students that the tests do not necessarily tell you how smart you are. Both the SAT and ACT give colleges an idea of how well a student might do in college.

THE BREAK DOWN

SAT composed of ten sections: one essay, three critical reading sections, three math, and three writing

ACT composed of four sections: math, science, reading, and English

Senioritis strikes: the good, the bad, the ugly of procrastination

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

Senioritis: we'd fight for a cure if we weren't so lazy. I am lazy. I am writing this column at the last minute. I suppose if I had a true case of senioritis, I wouldn't even be turning this in. I wouldn't care about anything, but I haven't been accepted to a college yet so I guess I have only a borderline case. Procrastination is a major symptom of the disease, and so, in that respect, I've had a touch of senioritis since freshman year. With such an early onset, it's not likely that I'll make a full recovery.

I don't drink, do drugs, smoke, vandalize, stay out late, or act sexually promiscuous, but I am a bad girl in my own right. My "rebellion" is expressed through my lack of desire to do assignments. I am a stubborn, bad, procrastinating girl. Procrastination is like a drug: you get a high, you feel good, you forget about the world while you put off your assignment only to have your life come crashing back down. I don't NOT do things (though I have NOT done things), I just don't DO things. Rather, I endure things, suffer through things, wait for things to come and go again and sort of try.

I am a procrastinator. Almost everyone I know is, with the exception of Carolyn Rhodebeck, class of 2006, who never failed to remind me that she had finished her lab reports three days before they were due. The funny thing was, I looked at Carolyn like she was insane, when, in reality, I was the silly one for waiting. We all have fun stories of eleventh-hour rewrites and being saved by a 2-hour delay. Heck, the staff of the Spartana has pulled all-nighters on several occasions to get this pretty paper into your hands. Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow? We are teenagers, and like the True Life Choices teachers said in middle school, we want instant gratification. For cryin' out loud, it's the American way.

I understand that I could do my paper now and have the whole evening to goof off, but that wouldn't make me feel good at this very moment. Sometimes that means I do stupid things instead of prioritizing my options. I watch Grey's Anatomy instead of studying for a math test. I instant message people from summer camp two years ago. I Facebook. I make three or four cups of tea. I doodle. I get the high score on my calculator Tetris. I read anything, even Sports Illustrated (and I hate sports), to distract myself from doing actual research. Bad, right? Very bad. And it's silly, because I'm only hurting myself and I'm not sure what I'm trying to prove. Maybe I'm lazy, but maybe I'm just scared, because you can't fail if you never even try.

So here I sit in the pub room, being un-lazy, typing whatever comes to mind. Living in the moment, plowing through, fighting the urge to join another conversation. All procrastinators know that once you sit down and do it, it is not that bad. You only hurt yourself by waiting. Even if it's not perfect, at least it's done. The cure for senioritis is similar to the disease: you just have to keep going through the motions. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have people to text before I start my econ.

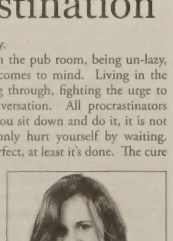


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

French teacher Gregory Fryzel writes on the 'brotherhood,' his time in Paris

By Gregory S. Fryzel
Guest Writer

What we remember with tenderness and happiness will give us strength and courage for a long time to come. What I experienced as a friar living with the Franciscans in Paris will forever enrich my understanding of the word brotherhood.

It was Tuesday, August 25, 1988. I had just disembarked at Charles De Gaulle airport in Paris and claimed my baggage. Everything was pretty much okay except for a heavy typewriter that I was lugging. Did I actually think that France wouldn't have typewriters, rigged with accent marks and all? I strapped the typewriter around my neck and, along with one huge suitcase and a bulging carry-on, made my way into the subway and then to the friary at 7, rue Marie-Rose.

Friars live in friaries. Monks live in monasteries. Nuns live in nunneries. Sisters live in convents. If you are overseen by an abbot or an abbess, you live in an abbey; by a prior or a prioress, you live in a priory. Simple.

Goodness, the Parisian friars were an odd lot. The friary consisted mostly of retirees who were once writers, editors, pastors, teachers. Their love for the French language was fierce. I dreaded meals for the longest time, fearing that my crippled verb tenses, my bland adjectives, and my uneasiness with the multiple-armed and deadly subjunctive would unnerve them. At times it did, but early on they realized I loved their language and was determined to leave Paris really speaking French. At dinner, I often reveled in throwing out a chunk of grammatical chum at which they would tear like sharks in a feeding frenzy. By the time they reached a consensus, I was long gone from the table.

I went to Paris to write my thesis on the French author Colette. She is most famous for her novel Gigi. The friars were horrified that I would dedicate my time to writing about cette créature (that creature) instead, perhaps, of writing about Sainte Colette, the foundress of the Colettines, an Order of Franciscan Sisters. Sorry, boys.

The friars slowly warmed up to the idea that France could actually have a legitimate female writer and gradually took an interest in my project—going as far as procuring rare original manuscripts from the National Library of France for me to revere, as though they were sacred texts, in fear and trembling.

I defended my thesis at the Bibliothèque Nationale before a solemn and dour team of reviewers. When I stepped out of the examination room, I wasn't sure what I had just said to the jury; I only remembered hearing the word, accepté. Passed.

I left Paris and returned home to Indiana where I continued to struggle with my decision to remain a friar.

On the first day of July, 1992, a letter arrived from the Holy See at the Vatican in Rome dispensing me from my solemn vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. I had been a friar for twenty-three years but could no longer in good conscience live my vow of poverty. Quite simply, I liked things.

A year later, I received a letter from my Franciscan brothers in Paris:

We are saddened to learn that you have requested and have received a dispensation from your vows. If you are ever in Paris, please come and stay with us. Franciscan or not, you will always be our brother.

This letter was a healing balm. It spoke of love and acceptance, exactly what true brothers ought to have for each other. It's curious, I think, that I felt the true depths of a brotherhood after I had left it.

Franciscan or not, I will always love that band of brothers who thought Christmas trees were "too German," yuletide carols were "too English," language was too sacred to be trifled with, chilly drafts on the neck could most certainly cause death, cold linen sheets were good for the circulation, the heat could not be turned on until well after All Souls' Day, a raw egg swallowed each morning kept you healthy, chewing on charcoal could cure stomach flu, you could never have too much butter, and that even though there was an iron in the laundry, no one got to use it. See, if someone used it, it would get broken.

Each issue a new teacher will contribute to the Spartana a small column about their life before Homestead.

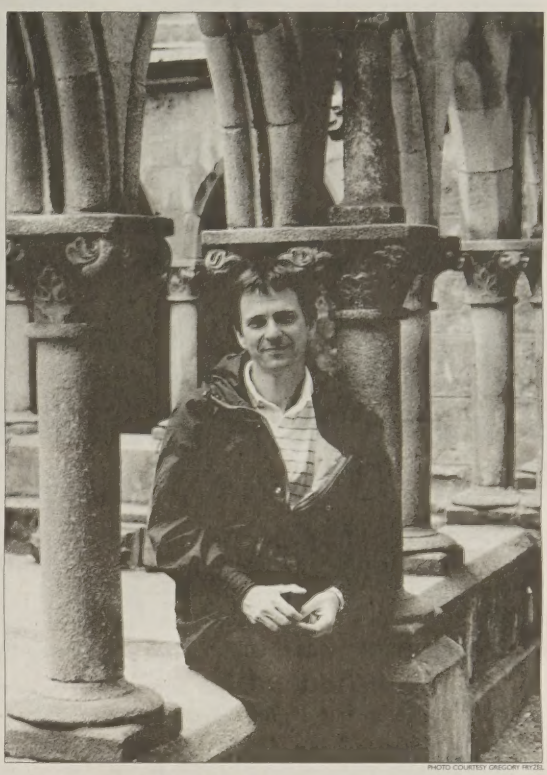


PHOTO COURTESY GREGORY FRYZEL

Students with loved-ones overseas express emotions

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all."

Some students have strong emotions each time they speak or hear these words.

9-11-2006 marked the five year anniversary of the tragedy the United States overcame. On the anniversary of that day, many thought about the families who lost loved ones in the attacks. Americans also took time to remember the men and women currently overseas in uniform, and their families that remain, without them, behind to the majority of Americans, even though they will always remember the event, their lives have returned to "normal."

There are other students, however, whose thoughts of the war are a constant, everyday thing. To them, linked by a family bond to soldiers overseas, the war is always in their minds.

Rachel Schenk (12) is one of those students. Schenk's brother, Tyler Schenk, is part of the United States Navy. Stationed in Japan for a little over a year, Tyler will stay there for another two years at least, but may reenlist for another four years. Tyler appeared with his sister at the homecoming game.

"I miss him more than anything," Schenk said. "Even though he is half way across the world, this has brought us closer emotionally. I learned not to take things for granted."

Amanda Kingsbury (12) also has a brother involved in the war. He was not so much into attending college right out of high school, so he joined the military. He has been in uniform two years, but has recently been stationed in Iraq.

"It is really scary at times knowing that my brother is over in the middle of a war," Kingsbury said. "Fortunately he is able to call and e-mail us, so that helps just because then we know he is doing alright."

In 2001, the United States and her allies began the war to stop terrorism.

"No matter what danger my brother is in, I am for the war," Schenk said. "I am extremely grateful for this country. Without war the United States would not be what it is today. I am thankful for those brave enough to protect our freedom."

"I am so proud of my brother and what he is doing," Kingsbury said. "He is doing something he truly loves. I am ready for the war to just be over though. I want everyone to just get to have their loved ones safely at home."

Principal search firm holds meetings

Puja Parikh
Assistant News Editor

Last summer, Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith and other school officials conducted interviews with many candidates but were unable to find someone with whom they were satisfied with. The search for a principal was hurried and officials came up without a suitable candidate.

"Dr. Smith called me, we've known each other for a while," Ron Barnes of BWP Associates said. "[Smith] told me that the district needed some help. This is where we step in."

Barnes and another representative from the agency met with school officials on Monday, Sept. 11, to discuss what qualifications are necessary in a new principal. The groups that met on Monday included the central office administration, Moake, counselors, and individual meetings with each of the five school board members, high school department chairs, and students. Each focus group was asked several questions.

"The first question we asked was, 'what are the significant strengths of Homestead High School?' 'Basically, why would anyone consider Homestead?'" Barnes said. "Second we asked them what are the issues facing Homestead High School? What are these special characteristics or attributes? Here we were looking for common themes."

The agency had already taken several steps in finding new candidates.

"Letters have gone out to every superintendent in the state of Indiana asking them to nominate candidates," Barnes said. "We have also contacted several universities and newspapers."

Nominations have already been received by SACS and that these individuals have been contacted for further questions. The purpose of hiring BWP Associates, which is costing the district more than $10,000, is to set up a timeline and take quick action.

"A decision should be made prior to winter break," Barnes said. "However, we're leaving the installation of the new principal open to July 1st."

According to Barnes, by mid-October the agency will have selected a pool of candidates. The agency will then take the best candidates for pre-screening evaluations.

"The district has made it clear that they want a qualified candidate," Barnes said. "We are trying to do everything we can in order to find that candidate."

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Dylan strikes again with 'Modern Times'

Still crooning out songs three decades later, latest album compiles a lifetime of musical rhythms

By Brad Lufkin
Writer

Debuting at number one with over 192,000 copies sold in the first week in the United States alone, Bob Dylan's 31st studio album, "Modern Times," was hailed by some as a "masterwork."

"Modern Times" is Dylan's first number one album in the United States since 1976's "Desire." At 65, this makes Dylan the oldest person ever to have an album debut at number one on the Billboard charts.

Dylan's latest offering expresses emotions and comments on everything from love: "When the Deal Goes Down" and "Beyond the Horizon," to mortality with "The Levee's Gonna Break" and "Ain't Talkin."

It's evident that Dylan realized at his age he's got to avoid the hormone-fueled antics of Mick and Keith, or the futile attempts of other trans-generational artists who try to look relevant to today's youth by dyeing their hair.

Dylan has taken the contrasting route by embracing his age and adopting the persona of the old blues man, the traveling man who has seen it all and is shaken by none of it.

This persona suits him well; blues men have more ethos when they're older, while rock artists often look pathetic trying to keep the innately youthful spirit of rock. Dylan is nothing if not crafty, and he's wise to go back to rock's roots rather than try to make a new path in a genre that's been overdone.

> "These tunes come straight from the Mississippi Delta, capturing the bizarre beauty and mystique of old America..."

Everything here predates rock, from the blues-like trills and boogie shuffle of "Thunder on the Mountain" to the lazy country sway of "Beyond the Horizon." And while everything does sounds old, it also sounds timeless in that strange sepia-toned manner that has become characteristic of Dylan. The "new" Dylan, one might say, is even older than the one from when he first started.

These tunes come straight from the Mississippi Delta, capturing the bizarre beauty and mystique of old America. Dylan takes Americana back so far in "Times" that blues and jazz and country overlap rather than sounding like separate genres.

As always, the voice is so ravished it lends credibility to the lyrics. Never a great instrument of range or versatility, his voice is now little more than a whispery croak that vanishes at the slightest strain. Dylan writes to suit his limited range.

More importantly, this collection of all new songs is proof that he has found a viable niche in an absurd, fickle music industry. Ironically, Dylan has found a way to remain relevant by refusing to try to remain relevant.

"Modern Times" is something different than his past albums. It's less shocking, less funny on first listen. But it has more command, more clarity.

This music is relaxed; it has nothing to prove. It is music of accumulated knowledge, it knows every move, anticipates every step before you take it. Dylan has captured the sound of tradition as an ever-present, a sound he's been working on since his first album, in 1962.

That's one of the things that makes this album so good: he's been working on it since the very beginning.

Essential *Bob Dylan*

Dylan album's that you have to listen to.

2006
Modern Times

2003
Highway 61 Revisited

1975
Blood on the Tracks

1976
Desire

Helping those in need: volunteers at Lutheran

By Kara Busse and Erin Quinn
Writers

While most students spend their evenings on Facebook or doing homework, others are just a few minutes away helping people change lives.

The students who volunteer at Lutheran Hospital do it for different reasons. Some need to meet the requirements of their student government class or to log in a certain number of hours for volunteer organizations like Key Club, but others do it because they plan on going into the medical field in the future and want to gain insight

Despite their different motivations, all who volunteer come away with a good experience and a new look into the medical world. No matter a students' interests, there is always something to do at the hospital to keep busy and active.

"When I first started, I worked in the Pediatric Department because I figured I'd have a lot of interaction with kids and stuff, but I didn't really and didn't always have a job to do," Sarah Causillas (12) said. "I knew some people in Escorts and they said they kept pretty busy so I signed up to do that with a friend and I enjoy it a lot better".

The jobs for volunteers at Lutheran vary from taking samples of things to the lab to cleaning the playroom on Pediatrics. No matter what the job, the volunteers know they're helping and receive a good feeling from that.

> *"I would recommend volunteering. It helps the community and also allows one to grow as a person."*
>
> **Andrew Schroeder (12)**
> Volunteer

"When I was in the outpatient pediatric oncology area, there was one little girl there getting her chemotherapy and she would follow me around," Julia Springer (12) said. "She told the nurses I was nice to her and pretty. I knew she would not live long and this was very emotional for me. Just being there helped her see someone different and put a smile on her face. I was reminded that life is a gift,."

"I fed and rocked the most adorable little baby to sleep one day," Causillas said. "I always like wheeling the women from maternity down to their cars with their new babies."

People who volunteer think it's a good idea to get involved and help out at the hospital.

"I would highly recommend volunteering. It helps the community and also allows one to grow as a person," Andrew Schroeder (12) said.

"I recommend it, but I would say you should first volunteer with a friend, because you don't know who you're going to be paired up with," Causillas said. "Some of the people are amazingly nice, like an elderly couple I volunteered with in the summer, but a few others are grumpy or not very social. You always have some down time too so it's nice to have someone to socialize with just in case you get stuck with someone who doesn't like to chat."

Most students volunteer at the hospital weekly, but anyone can help out at anytime. Colleen O'Hara (11) spends two hours every Monday helping patients who have been dismissed from the hospital out to their cars.

"I go right after school, and it only takes me about 10 minutes to get there," O'Hara said. "I got started about a year ago because my mom had thought it was a good thing to get involved in and after a while it just grew on me and became habit".

Other students are less consistent with their hours; Vasundhara Bhargava (11) volunteers throughout the year, with the exception of band season.

Student volunteers recognize that they are not the only ones who benefit. Their benefits are often balanced with the difficult tasks they undertake, and those tasks that they are assigned each day.

"I think the presence of young people at the hospital really helps raise the spirits of the patients because its nice to see kids helping out," O'Hara said.

Lutheran staff recommend that interested students contact the organization through Gaile Milne at gmilne@lutheran-hosp.com or call 435-7073 for more information.

As the hospital setting is not for everyone, the Key Club at school offers many other volunteer opportunities.

To learn about the different ways to get involved in the community and impact the lives' of others, start by attending a club meeting held on Thursdays after school in the Community Room. The Key club is open to all new members.

Kim Kroll: taking on stereotypes

Shaving her head for greater cause, still battling high school pressures

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

Under the dim lights of the coffee shop, senior Kim Kroll has a friendly face with warm eyes the color of her mocha frappucino. Except for the fuzz of hair growing (or re-growing) on her head, she looks like any other teenager.

But hidden behind the smile lies a girl who wants to be a teacher, a girl who prefers to spend extra time at her job at Marco's Pizza rather than sit alone at home. Even more impressive is her certification to be a scuba driver. The Spartana sat down with Kim to talk about her interests, her dreams, and to get the real scoop behind the hair.

Spartana: What makes you unique from the 2000 other students here?

Kim: I was born with four legs. [Laughs.] In all honesty I don't think I'm that unique. Everyone's always like, "Oh, no she's a poser, they're trying too hard, they should just be themselves."

But that's what everybody does, and that's what they all say about everyone else. It's just kind of…you might want to call yourself an individual, but as much as you hate to admit it, everyone is an individual. No one's trying to be like someone else. They're just trying to find themselves.

Spartana: No matter what you say, your hairstyle sets you apart. There are a ton of different stories going around. What's the true tale behind it?

Kim: I went up to New York with my cousins and met a couple of her friends that were [dealing with] cancer. One of them had leukemia and one of them had breast cancer. Those are the two I got closest with. And all of their friends were going to shave their heads together, even the ones who weren't going through chemo.

So I was like, "You know what, I'll do it too." I said you know what guys I'll do it, too, but I'm not going to do it with you (because my friend Julie would've killed me if she didn't get the honor of spending two and a half hours shaving my head).

Spartana: With stereotyping as a currency in high school, how do you deal?

Kim: I still have slight stereotypes. I'm trying to rid myself of them and become a better person but I still have them, I can't help it. I don't have anybody that I'm close to but I know what a lot of people think. They all think the exact same thing; everyone thinks I'm gothic.

When I think of someone who is 'gothic,' I tend to think mainly [of] someone who always reads, always writes, always draws, and keeps to themselves…But I like to be doing things with people, be social. Instead of sitting at home by myself for two hours, I go into work, where at least I'm with people.

Spartana: Music fan?

Kim: Big music fan. I prefer rock, alternative rock. I'll listen to just about anything, but I'll kill myself after about three country songs. There are a couple country songs I like even though I'd never admit to it. Not the biggest rap fan in the world but, once again, I can listen to it.

Spartana: You're taking classes at Homestead and at IPFW. How's that going?

Kim: I only go [to IPFW] for a half day. I'm only taking philosophy right now. Over the summer I took sociology. It's actually quite a bit of fun. I heard a lot of bad things about IPFW but the teachers are really good. They're fun teachers. I'm currently trying to pay my parents back for [IPFW], and trying to afford a car and real college: Ball state or SUNY College in Buffalo, New York.

Spartana: And you want to teach. How did you decide on that career?

Kim. Mrs. Squibb. She was my eighth grade teacher at Woodside and she was just awesome. She'd be sitting there at her desk painting her toe nails. It was just like, "Wow, I want to be just like her."

Spartana: Besides teaching, what do you want to experience in life?

Kim: I want to be able to travel during my summers. I don't want to do the whole change-the-world up front. I'd rather help the person that changes the world rather than do it myself. I'd probably be really bad at it.

If my destiny is: "You're going to save the world," I'd be like "Oh crap, my favorite TV show's on." I'd screw it up somehow.

Spartana: What's been your best high school experience?

Kim: Not getting pants-ed in the lunch line.

tvreviews

Law and Order

Air Days: Fridays 10:00 p.m. EST on NBC
New Season Premiers tonight

Premiering tonight for the 17th straight year, "Law and Order" (the original) open to a new time. The season-opener has already been greeted by controversy; the first episode features a hip young star ("Sky Sweet") who is careless with her child. The episode has drawn fire from Britney Spears and her husband, Kevin Federline. Law and Order's continued run makes it the longest-running crime and drama series in the history of television. Filmed on location in New York, the series will test a new cast this year. Detective Greene (Jesse L. Martin) will be joined by a female detective (Detective Nina Cassady) played by Milena Govich. Assistant District Attorney Jack McCoy played by veteran actor Sam Waterson will be joined by Alana De La Garza as ADA Connie Rubirosa. Fred Thompson and S. Epatha Merkerson return as the District Attorney and Lieutenant Van Buren respectively.

The Daily Show

Air Days: Thursdays 11:00 p.m. EST on Comedy Central

In an age of instant information and 24-hour news coverage, it's no wonder than channels like CNN and FoxNews are edging a fine line between hard news and random trivia, juggling war and politics with new diet fads and the latest blog advice. But Comedy Central hit a jackpot with Jon Stewart's Daily Show, whose half-hour show is based on the latest news and invariably filled with satirical humor. The Daily Show is not necessarily always political; guests on the show have ranged from Bill Clinton to George Clooney, promoting everything from world views to the release of the latest movie or book. For those who wish that Larry King could crack a joke, and for those who are tired of the straight-cut "unbiased news," the Daily Show provides humorously and purposely biased news that achieves what today's media often fails to do: tell it like it is.

House

Air Days: Tuesdays 8:00 p.m. EST on FOX

Fox's medical drama, which is entering its third season, stars Hugh Laurie as impatient Dr. Gregory House, a jerk in his own right who has a knack for diagnosing and healing his patients (who have unique cases not often seen on similar shows). To aide his already keen sense for solving medical puzzles, House has enlisted a team of young medical know-hows, including Dr. Eric Foreman (Omar Epps), Dr. Robert Chase (Jesse Spenser), Dr. Allison Cameron (Jennifer Morrison), and Dr. James Wilson (Robert Sean Leonard). The drama occurs both in the medical field and in the personal lives of the doctors, where Dr. House shares an explosive chemistry with Dr. Lisa Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein). Cuddy, who is hospital administrator, goes head to head with House about his role in the hospital. But no one can argue with House's skill or with the show's unique spin on the typical medical drama.

sudoku bookreviews

3	9		6			8		
2						3		
		5		3	2			
		2		7				6
1			3		4			8
8				2		1		
			4	6		5		
		8						7
		4			1		6	9

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

Running with Scissors
by Augusten Burroughs

Genre: Memoir/Humor
Synopsis: Burroughs tells the story of his dysfunctional childhood with a psychotic mother, an absent father, and a surrogate father who happens to be his mother's shrink. From age ten to his adult life, Burroughs recounts the strange experiences and life lessons he learns along the way.
Recommended Because: The oddities and humor in this book will keep the reader interested for the length of the memoir. Adult humor for mature readers.

Into The Wild
by Jon Krakauer

Genre: Adventure/Biography
Synopsis: Jon Krakauer's national best seller is the story of Chris McCandless, whose emaciated body is found inside a decrepit bus on a hunter's trail in Alaska.
Recommended Because: The middle of the book is filled with chapters on similar men who journeyed into the wildest of environs to find themselves. Krakauer's presentation of McCandless' story is honest, well-developed, and engrossing.

Bel Canto
by Ann Pattchett

Genre: General
Synopsis: A group of internationals gathers in a South American country to celebrate the birthday of a Japanese investor. Terrorists take the entire group hostage and force people from all over the world to explore the connections that humans make.
Recommended Because: The novel throws a little of everything into it – action, romance, and suspense – all the while remaining fresh and insightful with an ending that still manages to surprise the reader.

Prep
by Curtis Sittenfeld

Genre: Fiction
Synopsis: The novel spans across Lee Fiora's four years at Ault, a prestigious preparatory school on the East Coast, where she struggles to maintain her grades, establish friendships, and figure out a tricky economic class system. All the while Lee tries to balance her preoccupation with a boy who is "more than a friend but less than a boyfriend."
Recommended Because: Especially for public high school students, the novel reads as if entering an entirely different world. While Lee may at times assume a grossly negative attitude, the reader can sympathize with her troubles in school, with friends, and with her parents.

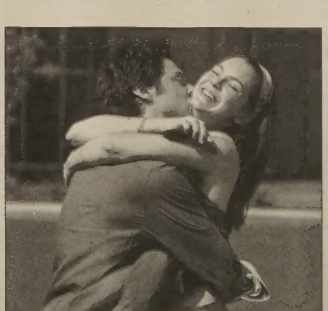
filmreviews

The Last Kiss

Starring: Zach Braff, Jacinda Barrett, Rachel Bilson, Blythe Danner, Tom Wilkinson

Tell the story line of this one to anybody that hasn't seen the movie, and it'll sound like a soap opera. Michael and his girlfriend Jenna are about to have a baby, but even though this would be great news to anyone else, it scares him. He is almost thirty, he feels like his whole life up until that point has gone exactly the way he thought it would, and he can now see the rest of his life already planned out in front of him with "no more surprises." That is, until he meets a younger girl named Kim at one of his friends' weddings, with whom he develops a secret relationship. Meanwhile, each of Michael's friends is having a crisis of his own, and even Jenna's parents are struggling with marital problems. It sounds like a pessimistic film (because it is), but it's still worth watching, and the story lines are weaved together in a way that illustrates the pertinent theme quite well. It's a good film about bad decisions and about the regret and consequences that result from them. The performances are what really elevate this film above most other relationship dramas. Braff, Barrett, and Bilson are superb in their main roles, but the rest of the supporting cast is not to be overlooked. Michael Weston, Casey Affleck, Lauren Lee Smith, and Eric Christian Olsen play the close-knit group of friends well, and the performances by Blythe Danner and Tom Wilkinson as Jenna's parents are stunningly good. This is the best movie I've seen since Little Miss Sunshine, and fans of that will most likely enjoy this one too.

Purdy's Rating: ★★★½



Zach Braff and Jacinda Barrett in Paramount Picture's *The Last Kiss*, released Sept 15. All photos used under fair use.

The Protector

Starring: Tony Ja

I'm normally a fan of martial arts movies, but there's a big difference between beautiful cinema like Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, and mindless tripe like this. The story here is virtually nonexistent and shallow. Kham is an elephant raiser in Thailand who is skilled in the ancient art of elephant protecting. When his father is killed by elephant thieves who steal his elephant, Kham goes to Sydney, Australia for revenge. The directing and editing are atrocious, and it is the first film this year that I thought about walking out of. The only redeeming qualities about this movie are its impressive fight choreography and the fact that dubbed movies are hilarious to watch. I wouldn't recommend this movie to anyone, not even a martial arts fan. The very small audience in my theater was laughing at the cheese and sheer level of absurdity by the end.

Purdy's Rating: ★½

Hollywoodland

Starring: Adrien Brody, Ben Affleck, Diane Lane, Bob Hoskins

If you want to see a good detective movie, this is it. I thought this film was very interesting in that it was both a biopic about actor George Reeves' life and a compelling 1950's film noir about his mysterious death. Because of this, it seems to have two main characters who have equally engaging stories. George, played remarkably well by Ben Affleck, is a struggling actor desperate for work in Hollywood, and though he always wanted something really challenging, the only part he can successfully land is the role of Superman on the 1950's television serial. He accepts the part to get some cash. Sadly, his life begins to go downhill, and he eventually takes his own life. Or so the papers say. Intertwined with George's story is Louis, a struggling private eye in Hollywood desperate for work. When Reeves' mother hires him to dig further into the closed case of George's death, some dangerous leads take him deeper than he might have wanted to go. As the unorthodox detective learns more and more about George Reeves, he learns more about himself than he would have expected. Brody, as always, performs his part very well, and Diane Lane and Bob Hoskins also turn in noteworthy performances. The film is slow at times, and the conclusion may confuse some, but the good writing and dual plot lines keep you watching until the end. Ben Affleck's portrayal of the ill-fated icon is probably his best to date.

Purdy's Rating: ★★★

The Illusionist

Starring: Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, Jessica Biel

Frankly, I was disappointed with this movie, despite its fairly good reviews. It simply tries to do too much with too little source material and ultimately comes off as a halfhearted attempt at an insightful turn-of-the-century period piece. Eisenheim is a brilliant and famous Austrian magician who is trying to escape with his love, Sophie, but her fiancé, the Crown Prince Leopold, wants to stop that from happening. Not much is done to show the depth of the main characters' childhood relationship, which just so happens to be the whole focal point of the movie. It really doesn't go anywhere at all very fast until the end, and even then the surprise payoff seems routine and pretty unimaginative. In a film about a magician, I would have liked to see more actual staged tricks being performed, but instead most all of the "illusions" are done with computer generated effects. The lackluster performances by Norton, from whom I expected much better, and Biel, who is still a television actress in my opinion, do not help the situation at all, and their attempts at British accents (or are they German?) sound like something out of a mediocre high school play. Having said all that, it's not really a bad film; it is pulled off relatively well and is definitely aided by a strong performance from Giamatti. But don't expect anything special.

Purdy's Rating: ★★½

Crank

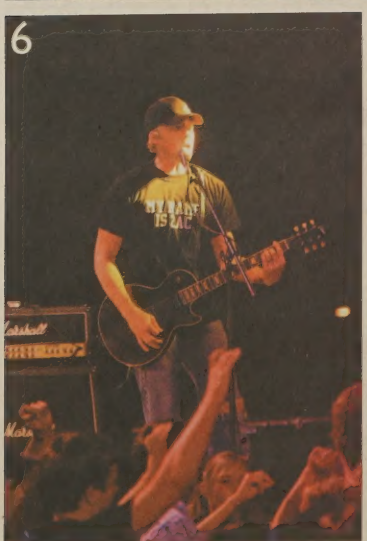
Starring: Jason Statham, Amy Smart

This film is as fun as a barrel of monkeys, but unfortunately about as stupid as one, too. Hitman Chevy "Chev" Chelios wakes up at home to find that he has been injected with a Chinese toxin that creates a poison inhibitor in his bloodstream. He discovers this by playing a video of the incident that his killer left behind, and he then proceeds to destroy his television. There is no antidote to the "Beijing Cocktail," and the only thing he can do to slow the artificial inhibitor is to keep his adrenaline up using whatever means necessary. Methods include driving ridiculously fast, standing up on a stolen police motorcycle, epinephrine shots, defibrillators, drugs, starting random fights, and of course, shooting guns at lots of people. There are probably about a hundred more, but you get the idea. He has to find and seek revenge on the people who "killed" him while protecting his oblivious girlfriend, without stopping for a breath. See it for laughs and amusing excitement, but not for any mental stimulation.

Purdy's Rating: ★★½

HHS HOMECOMING 06

1. Former Homecoming King Mitch Haifley crowns Alberto Corona (12) during halftime of the homecoming game. Corona and Amanda Clay (12) were voted to the throne by the student body. 2. Jordan Wise (12) leads out the varsity football team before the game against Bellmont. The Spartans won the game 42-7. 3. Members of the trumpet section warm up before their halftime performance. 4. Joey Parker (12) holds the Spartan flag while being painted by Mack O'Shaughnaessy (12). The painted boys spelled "Lets Go Spartans!" 5. Nick Wirtner (12) is painted while Robert Titcomb (12) watches. 6. Zac Hill, from the band Hot Sunday, performs during the halftime performance. 7. Kaylin Kopeckey (11) performs with the band during halftime. 8. The bonfire burns at the Homecoming after party. The fire stood six feet tall and attendance was estimated at 550. 9. Charles Seals fights for yardage during the football game. Seals helped the team to stay undefeated in front of the home crowd.



issue 2 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

Unbeaten after five

Brandon Deark (11) and the Spartans are undefeated going into tonight's game. 4B

Friday, September 22, 2006

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Kelsey Knapp (11) pulls her way around a Northrop defender. This is Knapp's first season playing soccer at Homestead. The Spartans defeated Carroll and claimed the conference championship on Monday.

Girls soccer beats Carroll to win conference, looking toward sectionals

Kelly Edelman (11) is tackled during the Noblesville game.

By Kara Busse
Writer

The girls soccer team got out of school early Friday, September 2 to travel down to Zionsville for their first game of the Zionsville Invitational. The invitational started off with the Lady Spartans playing the Zionsville Eagles. The two teams battled back and forth throughout the entire game, with a total of four yellow cards being distributed to players throughout the game, three for Homestead, one to Zionsville. At the end of a demanding game, the Lady Spartans lost the match 4-3.

"Overall, we had a good game but didn't play our best the entire time, which was when they'd get their goals. We also let the refs get to us too much, and consequently got three yellows," Kate Bienz (10) said.

The team went on to play two more games that weekend against Munster and Laville on Saturday, September 3. They tied the Mustangs 1-1 and defeated the Lancers 5-1.

The girls wore their home jerseys on Tuesday, September 5 when they played the Bellmont Braves. After worrying that the game would be cancelled because of lightning, the team won 5-1.

Saturday, September 9, the ladies had tough competition against the number one ranked team in the state, the Noblesville Millers. The team knew going into the game that it would be a challenging one to win. After a solid first half, the girls were only down 1-0, and then the team seemed to fall apart, letting Noblesville score an additional two goals.

"First half was beautiful, and then the second half we were pumped but just [broke] down. The heat might have got to us, but we were definitely in it to win," Kellie Julius (10) said.

After those games, the team tested different lineups and formations. They currently changed their formation to amplify their scoring opportunities. Now there are three players playing the role of forward as opposed to just two. Recently the team has played two away games against DeKalb, Northrop, and the Carroll Chargers for the conference championship. The team won 10-0 against the Barons with freshman, Jordan Webber (9), leading the way with four goals. The girls also defeated Northrop 6-0.

The game against Carroll was extremely important to the team. They were playing for the conference championship, and they were not about to lose. The Lady Spartans put up a tough fight throughout the entire game and never let down. The score stayed 0-0 through both halves and went into two ten-minute overtime periods. Neither of the teams scored, which lead into a shoot out. With the first four girls putting their shots in the back of the net and Caroll missing one, Homestead won the game and the conference championship.

The girls' next games are against Snider on Saturday, September 23 at Snider, and against Norwell on Monday, September 25 at home.

SEASON SCHEDULE

09.23 @ Snider V & JV 12:00PM
09.25 Norwell V & JV 5:00PM
09.30 @ Bishop Luers V TBA
09.30 Bishop Luers JV 10:00AM
10.02 New Haven V & JV 5:00PM
10.09 Home Sectional TBA
10.10 Home Sectional TBA
10.12 Home Sectional TBA
10.14 Home Sectional TBA
10.17 Regional TBA
10.21 Semi-State @ Hefner TBA
10.28 State @ Kuntz Field TBA

Tennis takes 10-3 record to Indy this weekend

By Suzie Reecer
Photographer

Game, set, match. The varsity tennis team's season has been sailing smoothly. The tennis team recently raised their record to 10-3 on Monday night against Norwell. Wins haven't been the only thing coming from the boys tennis team. Many have started to step up and take leadership of the team, both team captains and underclassmen.

For the 2006 boys tennis team, number one singles Cameron Huffman (12) and number one doubles Josh Rifkin (12) are the team captains. Although a few players on varsity are not team captains they are still contributing intensively both in leadership and wins. Such as Danny Reecer (11) and Josh Butcher (12). Reecer and Rifkin are leading the team in wins with a record of 15-2.

Danny Reecer (11) volleys in a recent match.

"It is good knowing you have people on your team that are willing to learn from you and are open to suggestions," Rifkin said.

This is the first year for Rifkin to be a team captain.

"So far Josh and I have played really well together and I think we can go far in the state tournament this season," Reecer said.

Homestead has defeated Norwell, Bellmont, and Carroll in the past two weeks. All three of those matches were won in blow-outs. The team recently traveled to Indianapolis for an invitational and many team members placed very well. The number one doubles, Rifkin and Reecer, defeated the number one team in the state, Park Tudor, to place third out of eighth. Josh Butcher played number three singles for Homestead and ended up placing fourth. Butcher has now moved to number two doubles with partner Geoff Norton.

"Personally, I wanted to play singles but I knew it would help the team go to state if I played two doubles. By playing doubles, it strengthens both one and two doubles," Butcher said.

The boys tennis team has few things to work on at their practices. The team has defeated all the teams in their conferences easily, but when it comes to the teams from Indianapolis, for example, they have a bit more trouble. The boys have been working hard lately so they can beat those teams they have lost to so far this season. This weekend the team will be traveling to Centre Grove and Carmel High School.

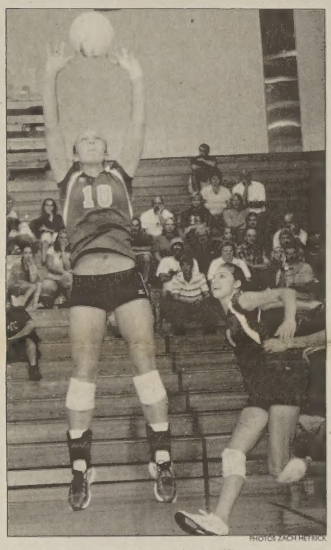
"The team has played very well against all the teams they have faced so far but they just need to play better against the stronger teams we will face in the long run," Coach Clark said.

Overall, the Spartan boys tennis team has been very successful in their season so far. This weekend the team will be looking for a couple more wins to add onto their winning 10-3 record.

"I am excited to see what the rest of the season will turn out like. I have a feeling it is going to be really good," said number one singles, Cameron Huffman.

Josh Butcher (12) returns a shot at the net during a recent match. Butcher plays number 1 doubles.

PHOTO SUZIE REECER



PHOTOS ZACH HEYDICK

Taylar Meeks (10) sets the ball to Kati Beutler (12) in a game.

Volleyball teams combat injuries, varsity looks forward to tourney

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

With many games already played, the volleyball teams look forward for more success. All three teams have been working hard to reach certain goals and improve. The large amount of injuries has been difficult to overcome, but the ladies have worked together to continue to play well. The teams upcoming games are East Noble, and New Haven, and Carroll.

With a record of 9-7, the varsity team plans on winning many more games. Snider, the teams arch rival, turned out to be tough competition. The ladies played five games and the Spartans pulled through at the end to win.

"One of the main goals is to win sectionals. This year all of the teams are on a pretty even playing field, so we have a good chance," Molly Rodenbecle (12) said.

To reach their ambition of winning sectionals, the girls believe they need to work on a few more aspects.

We need to make sure that we have enthusiasm every game because it really helps us play our best," Chelsey Sholl (12) said.

This past weekend, the varsity team attended a tournament at Lafayette Jeff. While there they won two out of four games. This weekend, September 23, the Lady Spartans are hosting a varsity tournament.

The J.V. team has played far more games than the other two teams, raising their record to 11-9. With a substantial number of injuries, the team has had to make some adjustments. Kristen Kinzer (10), Chelsea Hanauer (10), and Kalyn Jorgensen (10) have all had back problems causing them to not attend either games or practices. Also, Chelsea Childers (10), and Hanuer have had shoulder injuries.

Like every team, the girls believe they need to improve on a few things.

"We need to work on consistency from game to game," Kinzer said. "We will dominate the first game, but then fall apart during the next."

"We are trying to improve every game individually, and as a team," Hanauer said.

Returning coach, Jen Cohen, guides the freshman team. With a record of 5-2 the girls believe they still have skills to improve on.

"We need to communicate and play more as a team," Katelyn Waters (9) said.

The team attends the Freshman Inviational on September 30.

"We need to play with more intensity and work on passing... ," said Molly Smith (9).

SEASON SCHEDULE

Varsity Volleyball

*J.V. games begin at 6:15 and Varsity follows

09.23 Homestead Tourney 9:00AM
09.26 @ New Haven 6:15PM
09.28 Carroll High School 6:15PM
10.03 @ Bellmont 6:15PM
10.05 @ Norwell 6:15PM
10.10 South Side 6:15PM
10.11 @ Northrop 6:00PM
10.12 Leo High School 6:15PM
10.14 @ Penn Tourney 9:00AM
10.19 Sectional @ South Side TBA
10.21 Sectional @ South Side TBA
10.28 Regional @ H. North TBA
11.04 State @ Indy TBA

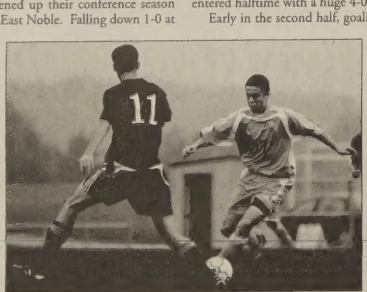
Inconsistent play, inopportune red cards hurt boys soccer team

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

After opening up the season with a tough loss against the top ranked team in the state, the boys varsity soccer team is looking to improve and still have a successful season. Several injuries have slowed the team but they are recovering and feel confident they can meet their expectations.

The team opened up their conference season on August 24 at East Noble. Falling down 1-0 at half, Sean Dulworth (10) ignited a second half push for the Spartans. However the Knights would get a late goal to pull of the major upset, in a 2-1 loss for the Spartans.

Next, the team had their first home game against Columbia City, a team who pulled a shocking upset over the Spartans last season. This year was a completely different story. The guys dominated right from the start, on way to a 5-1 victory. Kegan Harkenrider (9) scored two goals for the Spartans while Mike Cobb (12), Dave Weiss (12), and Dulworth each added one.



Kegan Harkenrider (9) scored two goals for the Spartans in their 5-1 victory over confrence rival Columbia City.

Following their first win, the team traveled to Bloomington for a tournament on September 1 and 2. In a physical opening game, the Spartans beat Roncalli 2-1.

The next morning the team plowed through Jennings County with a 7-0 win. The team would play state-ranked Avon in the Championship game. Avon came out hard and surprised the Spartans and jumped out to an early two goal lead. However, the team hung tough and battled but still ended losing 3-0.

Coming off the successful weekend, the team played at Bellmont on September 5. Cobb scored 30 seconds into the game and once more later in the first half to enter halftime with a 2-1 win. The team was able to fight hard and return home with an important conference win. Next the team traveled two and a half hours for a game at Center Grove. Center Grove had been ranked earlier in the season and would be a good test for the Spartans. The Trojans dominated the first half and entered halftime with a huge 4-0 lead.

Early in the second half, goalie Tyler Lambert (12) was given a red card and the Trojans converted the penalty kick to make it a 5-0 lead. The Spartans would not give up easily, though. Justin Hanford (9) would come in as the goalie and see his first action on the varsity team. While playing a man down, the team scored four goals in the final 30 minutes of the game but still walked away with a 6-4 loss. Chris Gerber (11) had two goals while Harkenrider and Cobb each had one.

"I am disappointed in the way we played the first half, but very pleased with the second half beating a team 4-1 with 10 guys in 30 minutes," said Cobb

The team faced DeKalb at home in a key conference match and had to play the game without Lambert who was serving a one game suspension due to the red card.

"The rest of the season should turn out well.," said Cobb. "Our sectional isn't as tough as usual and we should make it through. Our regional will have some of the better teams in the area in it and we'll have to step it up if we want to make it to semi state."

FROM THE MAKERS OF THE SPARTANA, PRINT EDITION
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Wyss pushes team to improve

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

On Saturday, September 16, the girls cross country team had another successful run at the West Noble Invitational. The team placed third out of fourteen other teams without their highest-ranked runner, Meghan Terrell (10), who was in a car accident two days before the meet and was still ailing from neck and leg soreness.

Carolyn Mutton (9) runs during the girls varsity race at West Noble. The girls finished in third place at the meet.

"I think we've actually been doing well, and hopefully we will go far during the post-season. We should definitely make it to semi-state, and hopefully make it to State," Beth Niner (12) said.

The girls cross country team only has three more meets until sectionals, on October 10. Practices for the team to prepare have changed compared to practices at the start of the season.

"There are three phases. At the beginning of the season, you plan for endurance with longer intervals of running and shorter rest. At the middle of the season you incorporate more speed, you shorten up the intervals. And at the final championship stage we focus on a lot of rest and a lot of speed," Coach Wyss said.

At the Bruin Invitational on Saturday, September 9 the girls placed fifth out of 14 teams and Terrell led the team with a time of 15 minutes and 57 seconds on the four kilometer course.

"We actually are improving a lot. Coach Wyss is pushing us hard, and I know that we are really moving up in the rankings." Terrell said.

"Meghan Terrell, she has been definitely pulling us along. She has been doing very well this season," Niner said..

At the Bruin Invitational the difference between all the varsity runners was only 55 seconds form the top to the lowest time. At the West Noble invitational the difference between the higest and lowest ranked Varsity runners was only 18 spots. Coach Wyss said that she likes to keep a "tight pack" in her runners. Yet this also makes it difficult to pick out a top seven for Varsity.

"That [top seven girls for varsity] is really up in the air right now, because we are all running around the same times. Right now, we have a solid top ten," said Erin Blum, 12.

Of the last nine seasons, last year was the first in which the girls did not advance to state. The girls look forward to making it back to State.

SECTIONAL CHAMPS

Girls golf takes sectional championship away from Norwell

By Laura Summers
Writer

The weekend of September 9 marked the conference championship for the girls varsity golf team. Played at the McMillen Golf course, the girls finished in third place behind East Noble and DeKalb. However, the girls were able to rebound, beating Norwell, Bishop Luers, and others in sectionals to claim the championship.

The regular season for the team ended on Tuesday, September 5. That night was senior night, so the match was at home against New Haven. The team plays their home matches at Orchard Ridge Golf Course. The girls did exceptionally well, defeating the Lady Bulldogs by about 60 points.

Seniors on the varsity team include Jessica Sciortino (12), Kelsey Lamphier (12), and Amy Heath (12). These girls are also the top three golfers on the team. Lamphier shot a 43 in the match against New Haven.

Each match, the top five girls compete, with the four best scores from each school being counted to determine the winner. For the matches during the week, the girls only play nine holes; weekend match play is eighteen holes.

Lamphier is the number two golfer on the team. She was excited for the conference tournament.

"I knew that we were well prepared, but both DeKalb and East Noble played really well Saturday," Lamphier said.

DeKalb beat the girls during regular season play.

"We played really well against them that match, but they shot their school record that night so they were hard to beat," Lamphier said.

At the conference match, the Lady Spartans finished in third place, shooting a 346. East Noble shot a 320, and Dekalb shot a 321. Lamphier shot an 83 that day, making her a member of the second team all-conference.

The top five scorers made first team all-conference, the next qualified for the second team, and the next five were honorable mention. Sciortino and Kelly Dickmeyer (11) made honorable mention.

Sectionals were held September 16 at Timber Ridge Golf Course. The top three teams moved on to the regional match. Teams in attendance included Bishop Luers and Norwell. The Spartans were able to beat each team, claiming the trophy.

Jessica Sciortino is the number one golfer on the team. All of the girls look up to her and she keeps them focused on their goals.

"Jessica definitely a great player. She helps lead us to victory," Lamphier said.

The team hopes to make it to the state competition for the second year in a row.

"Of course Jessica, Amy, and I all want to go to state. It's our senior year and we would love to finish on top," Lamphier said.

Considering they have had such a successful season, the girls have a chance of doing just that.

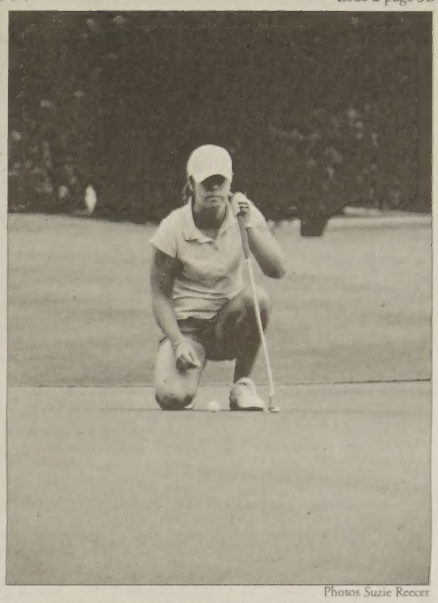
"As long as we can beat Dekalb, East Noble, or Warsaw at regionals, we should make it to state," Lamphier said.

The top three teams at regionals go on to state.

"The key to our success will be our mental game, but I'm sure we'll all be able to pull it off," Lamphier said.

SEASON SCHEDULE

09.23 Regional @ Noble Hawk
09.29 State Round I @ Legends
09.30 State Round II @ Legends



Photos Suzie Reecer

Above: Jessica Sciortino (12) eyeballs a putt during a recent match. Below left: Amy Heath (12) trys to predict the path of the ball. Below: Kelsey Lamphier (12) watches her ball after driving it at the Orchard Ridge Country Club.

Malfunction costs cheerleaders

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

Marking a major event in High School cheerleading, the conference competition was held at Norwell High School on September 9. The Spartan cheerleaders placed third, despite a music malfunction which forced them to compete their routine twice.

In one single competition routine a judge expects perfected stunts, advanced tumbling, dancing, jumping, cheering, and don't forget spirit fingers. It's all done in two minutes and thirty seconds flat.

Homestead cheerleaders are experienced in competition: they have been a force in regional and state competitions over the past years. With a new coaching staff, the girls were optimistic prior competition.

"We have the potential to do very well, it's all up to us to go out on the mat and leave nothing behind," varsity cheerleader Casey Crawford (11) said. "If we do that we could possibly take home the win.

Varsity coach Krisanne Diss felt the same way.

"We learned our routine in July and I am completely confident in my squad," Diss said.

With competition rapidly approaching, the intensity of practice increased.

"Practices have been exhausting," varsity cheerleader Teri Grimes (11) said. "Doing the entire routine is like a full out sprint for two-minutes and thirty seconds."

Saturday morning arrived and cheerleaders adorned in uniforms and large bows made their way to Norwell high school. Stress was high for the cheerleaders, as last year's coach had taken over Norwell's cheerleading program and ran the competition.

"It added a lot of stress. We had to walk on her turf and follow her rules." Crawford said. "We felt like we walked into the gym with disadvantage."

Despite this, warm ups went smoothly and the cheerleaders anxiously awaited their chance to compete. However, their opportunity came slowly and their anxiety was drawn out.

"This year we had a 20 minute break between warm-ups and competition. Most teams competed directly after warming up, but we got stuck with this disadvantage," Grimes said.

The first event to take place was the individual competition. In this event, cheerleaders have the opportunity to individually compete for first and second-team all-conference rankings. Representing Homestead was Katie Romelfanger (12).

> *"We couldn't hear any of the music. The whole team was off on counts and we had a hard time keeping it together."*
>
> Teri Grimes (11)
> Varsity cheerleader

"Its pretty stressful and nerve-wracking, when you are alone on the mat everyone's eyes are focused on you. But once you finish you feel amazingly relieved, and it took my nerves away from team competition" Romelfanger said.

When rankings came in Romelfanger was pleasantly surprised.

"I was pretty happy with my third place finish. It was really cool that Ashley and I would have tied if not for her hands down penalty." Romelfanger said.

As the competition progressed, the Spartans awaited their chance at glory in the hallways of Norwell.

"It's the most nerve-wracking part of the whole competition," Crawford said. "You have to keep calm and focus. As a team we try to concentrate on having fun and not over thinking the routine."

The routine started fine, but then the music malfunctioned.

"We couldn't hear any of the music. The whole team was off on counts and we had a hard time keeping it together," Grimes said.

The cheerleaders finished out the routine, but were disappointed with their performance. At the end of the routine Taylor Harruff sustained a rib injury, Brackley Villers took one to the ankle, and Jessica Ryland had vision problems.

Nursing other minor injuries, the cheerleaders sat on the bleachers disappointed, but mostly frustrated.

"It was ridiculous. The team before us had music trouble also, but they didn't check it until after we competed. And coincidentally the music was fixed for Norwell (the hosting school) who competed right after us." Romelfanger said.

Coach Diss called a team meeting minutes later, informing the girls that they were to redo their routine.

"I've never heard of anything like this happening before, I just wanted the girls to seize the opportunity," Diss said.

With a team full of injuries, and a tiring rebound off of an adrenaline high and low, the cheerleaders tried to gather themselves for a second chance.

"We attempted to use our anger from the music malfunction toward our performance, but we were all frustrated and we weren't in the same mental or physical state as we were for the first routine," Grimes said.

The second routine was much more precise, however stunt fell and there were other minor mishaps.

"It's so frustrating," Grimes said. "I feel like we could have done a lot better if our music had worked the first time."

The squad ended the night with a third place finish. The cheerleaders are now trying to rebound from conference and are practicing for future competitions.

"NHC was a huge disappointment, but I can't wait to see those squads at regionals and show them what we can really do," Grimes said.

Mariah Keifer (10) Ashley Hockney (11), and Kara Hackett (11) perform during the Pep session before the start of the Homecoming game.

Shenfeld leads team by example

By Nick Arnold
Writer

Coaching a successful cross country team involves using a fine balance of discipline and motivation. Though cross country may appear to be nothing more than running, it does entail strategy. Coach Dick Shenfeld has taken this idea to heart, as he looks to lead the boys cross country team to a successful year.

"A good cross country runner has both speed and endurance," Shenfeld said. "They know how to keep a steady pace and then go all out when they need it."

Some runners are inheritably faster than others, Shenfeld admits. Yet, that doesn't stop him from pushing his runners to perform at a high level.

"We run 40 to 50 miles a week on average," Shenfeld said.

The total mileage includes meets that are held on Saturdays and the state-required break from practicing on every Sunday. Running constantly can take a toll on the athletes, a note that Coach Shenfeld keeps in mind.

"Our hard workouts take place usually on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays," he said. "Tuesday is generally a recovery day and Friday is not as hard of a workout in preparation for our meets on Saturdays."

Cross country is the epitome of exercise. Practices can range from interval workouts to build speed, to eight mile jogs in order to build endurance.

Unlike years past, the team is only competing on the weekends during the regular season. Previously, schools would face each other head to head in dual meets during the week. Now, they only compete at invitationals against multiple schools in preparation for the postseason.

This schedule change has prompted Shenfeld to change his team's strategy for running in meets. The absence of a dominant runner, like Steve Clark ('06), has led Shenfeld to instruct his team to run more as one, rather than as individuals.

"Things are different now with the loss of Steve," he said. "I try to keep my top five runners within 30 seconds of each other at all times."

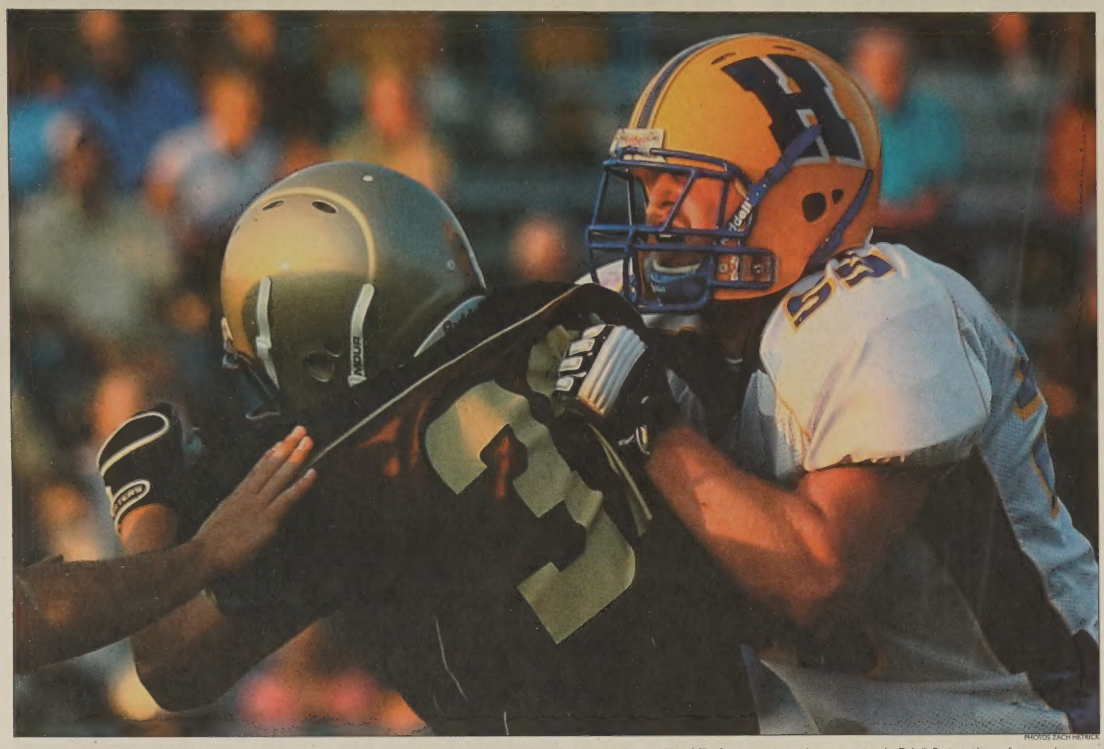
Shenfeld believes this strategy will enable the team to compete with conference favorites such as DeKalb and Carroll.

Constant exercise has taken a physical toll on multiple athletes, hindering the team's success. Of the top three runners on the team, all have sustained some injury this season. Though they still are recovering, Shenfeld is confident the team can still compete.

Shenfeld makes sure his runner's bodies are in the best shape they can be, through regulating their diets during the season. He takes time to talk to runners about their eating habits in detail, advising them to stay away from soda and giving them specific foods to eat on competition days.

Led by runners Galen Harden (12) and Andrew Schroeder (12), as well as Brian Graham (11), the team is counting on experience as well as upcoming talent to contribute to its success.

Perhaps the most valuable asset to the team is its coaches, however. Assisted by Ian Wilson ('00), a local collegiate athlete at IPFW, Shenfeld makes sure he practices what he preaches. Recovering from the heart surgery he had during the summer, Shenfeld still warms-up occasionally with the team. Even though he can't keep up with the team going



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Brian Laipple (12) brings down a Columbia City rusher during the Spartans recent match against the confrence rival. The Spartans won the game 33 to 0. The Spartans go in tonights game against the Dekalb Bruins with a perfect record.

Spartans continue to CONQUER

Jordan Wise (12) smiles at his father Ron Wise before entering the game in the second half. Wise has started as both safety and quaterback. Wise through two touchdowns to Desmond Lewis last week.

article continued from page 1A

ce, Zac Chapman (12). However, he was no match for the Spartan defense who shut him down and the entire Knights' offense, holding them to only 13 points. On the other hand, the Spartan offense scored a season high 35 points.

Four different players scored for the team, including quarterback Jordan Wise (12), running back Charles Seals (11), wideout Ryan Wright (11), and running back Ross Heckber (11).

Jordan Wise had a passing touchdown to Wright for 25 yards and two rushing touchdowns coming from within the 5 yard line of East Noble territory and from 20 yards out. Charles Seals rushed for his third touchdown of the season on a pitch going for about 3 yards. Finally, Heckber ran for the final touchdown of the game on a 12-yard carry in which he dodged and broke five tacklers.

In the third quarter of the East Noble game, Jordan Wise injured his shoulder while making a tackle at safety. Wise's injury caused him to not start at quarterback against a conference rival, Columbia City. Instead, the Spartans relied on Ryan Wright to lead the offense.

"With Jordan [Wise] injured, I was just trying to fill in and do what Jordan would do in these situations. Really, the bottom line was that I was trying to get the win for the team," Wright said.

In the first quarter, the defense showed that they came to play, keeping the Eagles from scoring. Charles Seals (11) rushed for a four-yard touchdown to put the Spartans up 7-0. From there the Spartans never looked back. Ryan Wright connected with wide receiver Desmond Lewis (12) for a four-yard touchdown to increase the lead to 14. Wright continued to dominate, running for a 58-yard touchdown in the third quarter. Wright ended with 151 rushing yards and 41 passing yards. With the comfortable lead, the team added two more scores in the fourth quarter. Ross Heckber (11) rushed for a three-yard touchdown and Jordan Barnes (10) rushed for a four-yard touchdown, making it Barnes' first varsity touchdown of his career.

"I thought we did not play as well as we should have against Columbia City. We started off slow in the first half. We should have handled them much more easily than we did," Wright said.

Barnes' touchdown was his first of his varsity career, and also marked the first touchdown scored by a sophomore this season for the experienced Spartans.

"I was pumped when I scored that touchdown. It was a pure adrenaline rush, and it was even better because we were winning 33-0," Barnes said.

Next came the Homecoming game against Bellmont on Friday, September 15.

"We really needed to improve on our mental focus for the Bellmont game. It was not there against Columbia City, and some players who usually play great had some mental lapses," Wright said.

The Spartans did just that. They started from the gates with a no regard for the Bellmont Braves. In the first quarter, the Spartans scored two touchdowns. The first came from running back Charles Seals (11) who ran for 27 yards to score. Then, quarterback Jordan Wise rushed in for an easy touchdown from the two-yard line.

The second quarter was dominated by the Spartans. Jordan Wise threw two touchdowns to wide receiver Desmond Lewis, one for 12 yards and the other for 15 yards. Lewis ended up with five catches for 82 yards. The end the half, Ryan Wright returned a punt 34 yards for a touchdown after juking his way past the Bellmont special teams.

"Everybody on the team did their job the whole game. When somebody needed to make a big play or when the opportunity to make a play came, everybody did what they had to do. If we do that every game, we'll get off to a great start no matter what," Brian Laipple (12), offensive and defensive lineman, said.

The team scored once in the second half on an 11-yard pass from Wise to Patrick Muhler (12). The final score was 42-7 in favor of the Spartans. Their next game comes Friday, September 2 against Dekalb, who is 2-3 overall.

"We need to cut down on turnovers and we need to continue to play physical for all four quarters against Dekalb," Laipple said.

The team looks to stay undefeated for the season. There has not been a Spartan football team who has been 6-0 since 2002, when they won the conference championship.

"I think some teams are still labeling us as the 'Rich Kids.' They think that we aren't tough or physical. Our team is rewriting that label. We are a very physical team, and we're going to show some people in the next couple weeks," Laipple said.

Dekalb is no pushover, however. Even though Homestead has played well against them in the past, they are always a threat in the NHC conference.

Brian Laipple (12), Jordan Wise (12), and Kyle Sherer (12), the captains of the team, prepare for the coin toss at the Columbia City game. The Spartans remain undefeated after five games.

Charles Seals (11) rushes during the East Noble game.

SEASON SCHEDULE

09.22 @ DeKalb
09.29 @ Carroll
10.06 Home vs. Norwell
10.13 Home vs. New Haven
10.20 SECTIONAL ROUND 1
10.27 SECTIONAL ROUND 2
11.03 SECTIONAL ROUND 3
11.10 REGIONAL
11.17 SEMI-STATE

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Brandon Derck (11) an outside linebacker for the Spartans eyes his target during a recent game.

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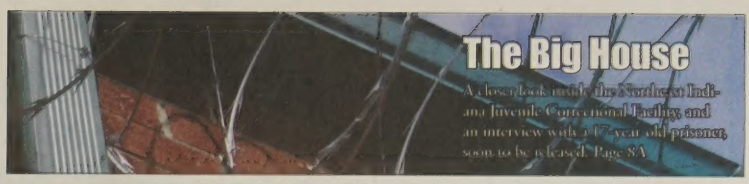


The Big House

A closer look inside the Northeast Indiana Juvenile Correctional Facility, and an interview with a 17-year old prisoner, soon to be released. Page 8A

Friday, October 6, 2006

Principal Dianne Moake is interviewed by a local newswoman. Following school shootings in two states, the school was featured in both national and local news coverage for security.

NATIONAL SECURITY

After rash of school shootings across the nation, network news program showcases school as model system for safety, training, equipment

STORY BY PUJA PARIKH, PHOTOS BY CHRIS ROZMAN

School shootings across the country last week focused the media and the public's attention on school security. Small towns and high schools were shocked at the invasions of three schools, two by outsiders and one by a student. Reporters from local and national news organizations came to Homestead, and reported on the school's high level of security. Prompted by the horrors in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Vermont, Homestead's security is now in the spotlight.

ABC News Comes to Homestead

Due to increased scrutiny about school safety, Homestead high school has put in place many new security measures. Because of these proactive measures, the school was featured on national television on ABC's "World News Tonight" with Charles Gibson.

Ken Trump, a nationally renowned school safety expert, worked closely with SACS to put in place the new security measures. When ABC news approached Trump, he directed the news agency to Homestead.

Social worker Anita Gross was briefly featured on ABC news, and local news agencies interviewed school principal Dianne Moake.

"I was very pleased when I learned Homestead was going to be recognized for all of our hard work," Gross said. "The story on [ABC news] was good, school safety has been a major concern. I'm just glad that SACS has the funding necessary to carry out these measures."

New Security Measures for Southwest Allen County Schools

But the question that lingers in everyone's mind is how safe Homestead truly is.

"I want to know how safe my son's high school is," a Homestead parent said. "Every parent wants that question answered."

Comparing SACS (Southwest Allen County Schools) high schools to those of FWACS (Fort Wayne Community Schools), it becomes evident that differences in security can be readily observed.

While SACS has put in place a full-time Student Resource Officer (SRO), questions about his productivity have sprung up. However, according to information released during a recent school board meeting, criminal incidents have fallen from 68 to 50 after the installation of the SRO. Arrests have also dropped from 53 to 28. This means there has been a drop from 82 to 64% of all incidents at Homestead. Officer AJ Pape, the current SRO for SACS along with Hunter, the drug dog, conduct two-three searches everyday.

"The SRO functions as a resource for kids, teachers, administrators, and parents to answer any questions or concerns we may have," Assistant Principal Chris Johnson said. Johnson is in charge of security details at Homestead.

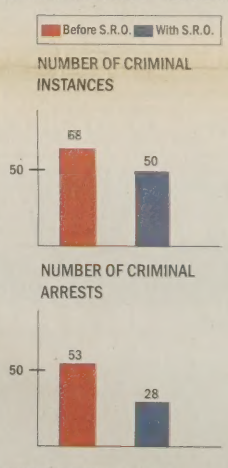
"Since the installation of the SRO, there has

See Security Comparison page 2

> "I want to know how safe my [child's] high school is, every parent wants that question answered."
> -Homestead parent

IMPROVED SECURITY

With the addition of Student Resource Officer (S.R.O.) A.J. Pape, the district has seen a decrease in criminal incidences and arrests.



BY THE NUMBERS - SACS

83 security cameras

2-3 daily drug dog searches

BY THE NUMBERS - FWACS

50-60 security cameras

600,000 dollars or more spent yearly

ISTEP WEEK 2006

Attendance down during ISTEP week

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

While freshman and sophomores took the ISTEP examination, for two days many upperclassmen played "hooky," with parental approval. Next year administrators and counselors may change the week's events to increase attendance.

On Tuesday, upperclassmen had the opportunity to job shadow or college visit. Students were encouraged to return for the rest of the week. But as testing continued through Wednesday and Thursday (Sept. 20 and 21), attendance dropped for upperclassmen.

See ISTEP page 2

Enrollment in ESL classes up

85% rise causes increased focus on program

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program has been incorporated in many public school districts throughout the nation and is growing in the Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) due to the increase in new applicants to the program.

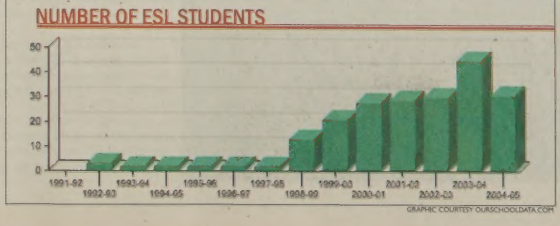
In the 2005 – 2006 school year, 41 students were enrolled in the ESL program. This year, 76 students are enrolled, and administrators expect this trend to continue.

"For the administrators and faculty here at SACS, we are very anxious to provide students with the skills they will need throughout life," Dr. Nancy Carey, head of the district's ESL program, said.

SACS' ESL program focuses on helping students who do not have a command of English to become more fluent. 21 different languages are spoken in the district. In the district among students in the program there are 19 native Span

See ESL page 2

NUMBER OF ESL STUDENTS



GRAPHIC COURTESY OURSCHOOLDATA.COM

BRIEFS

'ARSENIC AND OLD LACE'S' CAST IS DECIDED

This year's fall play, Arsenic and Old Lace, is beginning to take shape. Emma Farnsworth (12), Meg Warner (12), Austin Hetrick (12), Karolina Heyduk (12), Greg Kyes Myland (11), and Cale Royer (11) will play the leads. The play will be performed Nov. 9, 10, and 11 at a reduced ticket price of $5. The play centers around two older ladies trying to do the world a service by putting older men out of their misery. They accomplish this by poisoning them with arsenic, and burying the bodies in their cellar. There are many opportunities for students to help out with the play.

YEARBOOK UPDATE

Yearbooks from the 2005-2006 school year will arrive in the middle of October. When the yearbooks arrive they can be picked up from the publications, room 618. The theme of the books is "The Edge." The books focus on how the school has the top technology and the best of the best. Yearbook staff feel confident about their yearbook, and hope to pick up awards for last year'

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Five students have been selected as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. Seniors Emma Farnsworth, Katherine Romelfanger, Natalie Sistrunk, Harikiran Vasu, and Brad Zehr have the chance to win one of 8,200 Merit Scholarships worth $33 million. After taking the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, these students are among the 16,000 other semi-finalists who may win the scholarships. Finalists will be competing for a Merit Scholarship, which will be announced in April. Kimberly Sanders has also been named as a semi-finalist in the 2007 National Achievement Program.

IN THIS ISSUE

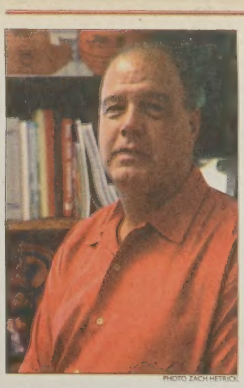


PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Athletic director John Ankenbruck announced his retirement Monday. See page 3B for full story.

PAGE 2A, News : An interview with congressional candidate Dr. Tom Hayhurst
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial : in this issue's Positively Speaking Kimmel writes about the joys of cross country
PAGE 4A, Life: The school's sexual education program compared to national trends
PAGE 5A, Life: Emma dishes up some love for the unappreciated: the school's nurses
PAGE 6A, Life: Key Club stays active in the area community
PAGE 7A, Life: Chris Purdy reviews Jet Li's new movie 'Fearless'
PAGE 8A, Photo: Reporters travel to juvenile prison, tour facility, interview convict
PAGE 1B, Sports: NHC showdown, Norwell at Homestead
PAGE 2B, Sports: Boys soccer team begins sectional play
PAGE 3B, Sports: Ankenbruck to retire
PAGE 4B, Sports: Volleyball team wraps up their competition season

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 22 issue, errors were printed in Gregory Fryzel's submitted work, "Brotherhood." French terms and a quote were not italicized. The Spartana claims responsibility for these mistakes, the errors were made after Fryzel submitted his piece.

In "Staph infection outbreak" a type of staph, Methicillin-resistant staph (MRSA) was mentioned, although no students had yet contracted that form. This correction is printed at the request of the school nurse.

Interview with congressional candidate Tom Hayhurst

Nominee for the Democratic party on education, his high school days, war, energy independence

Interview by Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

Dr. Hayhurst is 68, and was born in Fort Wayne. He has served as a City Councilman for the city's fourth district from 1996 to now. He is a Pulmonologist, and received his certification at Case Western University in 1974. He is also a graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine, Bloomington, 1967. Hayhurst served in the United States Air Force Medical Corps from 1969-1971. He has practiced medicine in the area for 30 years. He opened the Matthew 25 Pulmonary Clinic and volunteers weekly at the County Tuberculosis Clinic. Hayhurst is the Co-Founder of Veterans for Better Health Care. He is a Presbyterian. Hayhurst and his wife, Judith, have two children.

What was your high school experience like? How did you become interested in medicine?

Growing up, I was really interested in science. I had a grade school teacher that greatly interested me in science. I was interested in science as a high schooler, and I started as zoology major when I went to college. I graduated from North side high school in 1966.

What activities were you involved with during high school?

I played clarinet in the band and I was in some other organizations as well: Boy's State run by the American Legion (it was a mock state government they set up in Indianapolis each summer,) and Y-Camp at Camp Potawatami.

Do you feel young people are less involved and interested in politics today than they were when you were in high school?

I think young people today are even more interested in government today than they were when I came out of high school. Back then, prior to Vietnam, those were mostly quiet years, and there wasn't much activism.

What are some issues you feel need immediate attention from Congress?

Being a doctor I can't help but focus on the need for affordable health care. 10-15,000 people are dying each year because they don't have health insurance. I also think we need to fight all the harder to keep decent jobs in this area, and that relates a lot to our international trade policy.

As a military vet I think we need to bring the Iraq war to an honorable end, as soon as possible. It's a tough challenge that needs to be dealt with.

I'm a strong believer in what I call the "Declaration of American Energy Independence." I think we need an organized plan, not just subsidizing ethanol or other single changes—we need an organized plan to separate ourselves from oil imports. Congress is one place where action can be taken. I think our energy situation is a national threat. If there were an organized effort to cut us off from the Middle East and Russia it would almost ruin our country. Brazil is independent. If Brazil can be independent, we can too.

PHOTO COURTESY TOM HAYHURST

What are your views on the state of education in America, what changes are needed?

I think we need to reward schools for improving every year. And we shouldn't punish a school that has a large proportion of impoverished children; we should not punish that school because they didn't do as well as a suburban, wealthier school. I think that federal law should change so that the schools and the teachers and principals are all rewarded for improvement. I like the emphasis on the basics, reading writing and arithmetic, but I think the law should also emphasize music and athletics, as well as health education. Right now I think we need to be more supportive and less punitive to schools.

Drug testing in public schools?

I support the concept of randomly testing students in schools. If some young person is found out to have a problem when they're 16, it's much easier to correct the problem then than if they were in there twenties.

ISTEP, continued from 1

"Classes didn't accomplish much," Jack Rozman (12) said. "I only had one thing all last week, which was a quiz in [trigonometry.]"

Senior Neil Merchant skipped Wednesday because he didn't think he'd miss anything.

"Way too many of my classes were going to have at least half the people missing," Merchant said. "The presentations were mostly stuff we already knew, so I didn't mind missing them. The one presentation [the Regrets program] I did see was alright, though."

"Classes didn't accomplish much on Wednesday and Thursday" said school attending student Michal Knappenberger. "It was unnecessary for me to come to school and I don't know if I will come next year." Agree with her were Rozman and Ben Kaplansky (11), who felt that the productivity of Wednesday and Thursday led to unofficial 'skip days.'

"In my classes for juniors and seniors under half of students came for the days of the test," English teacher Scott Hill said. "I had full expectations to move forward [in curriculum], but after seeing attendance, I had to abandon this plan."

Many parents called the school and excused their child, allowing upperclassmen to stay at home and sleep or partake in other activities.

"I don't know if these are unofficial skip days, but if they are they won't stay that way," Diane Rice, counselor, said. "Parents are excusing their kids on nonfactual information that their child heard from a classmate," Rice said. "When Homestead applies for academic awards, one of the areas we fall short in is attendance. This directly affects the property value of homes. As soon as I show the correlation between low attendance and property value, I think parents will change their minds about letting their kids skip school."

Administrators and counselors are quick to point out that there will be changes made next year.

"I want to communicate with other schools about what they with upperclassmen during ISTEP week," Lake said. "There is a possibility of two or three hour delays on these days for upperclassmen."

Presentations were given on credit card abuse, a work ethic program, tips on the PSAT and ACT given by the Princeton review, and the Regrets program, which told one man's story with drunk driving. On a positive note, many students took advantage of Tuesday to job shadow or college visit.

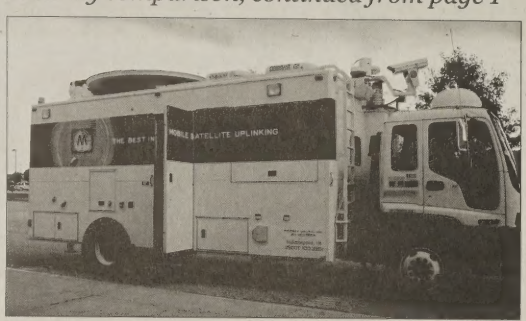
"There were very few who didn't take advantage of the opportunity," said Rice. "These students were placed in a study hall."

"Upperclassmen who used Tuesday in the way it was intended gained a positive experience," said Hill. "This type of real world experience is something that can't be overstated."

For next year, ISTEP administrators are trying to work with both students, colleges, and numerous programs to better the ISTEP week experience for upperclassmen.

"It's only going to get better," Rice said. "I have ideas for next year, I am hoping for funding to make this week interesting and beneficial for students."

Security comparison, continued from page 1



PHOTOS CHRIS KOZMAN

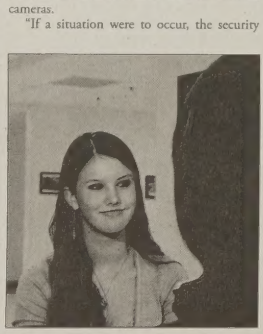
An ABC national news truck and its full film crew sent from ABC's Indianapolis studios arrives outside the school.

definitely been a decrease in criminal acts [at Homestead]," social worker Anita Gross said.

"A negative aspect of having the SRO is the fact that the SRO is doing so much work on the internal side of the school district that there is less supervision on the external/parking lot of HHS," a security report released by Johnson said.

According to this report, the SRO is also involved in emergency planning and crisis team meetings. He works closely with the administration on law and school related items. In 2001-2004, SACS hired off-duty police officers in which their major focus was the external campus. Most of their day consisted of parking lot duties and worked only for Homestead. Therefore, the SRO was brought in to help in district-wide security measures. Security cameras are also in place at Homestead, there are 70 internal school cameras and 13 external cameras.

"If a situation were to occur, the security cameras are put in place so that officials can go back and view details. The cameras are put in place to keep the honest people and honest and the dishonest people away. It's not like we stare at the television screens all day," Johnson said.



Taylor Underwood (12) is interviewed by local news.

In addition to the SRO and security cameras, SACS has implemented a district-wide policy of keeping all of the school doors locked during the day.

"Because the SRO works in all of our schools throughout the day, we want to make sure that all of our schools are safe," Gross said. "The security measures are installed first in Homestead and will gradually become part of our middle and elementary schools."

SACS has also implemented a new security program called the Pearse Responder System. The system is a software plan engineered for emergency situations.

As for putting a sticker price on these extra measures, it is well known that SACS spends more than any other school district in Fort Wayne.

"Yes security measures do cost quite a bit of money," Johnson said. "But is there a cost you can put on safety?"

Fort Wayne Community Schools: Funding and Security Coincide

Perhaps SACS can afford to make such a statement, but when looking at FWACS, different conclusions come to mind. The Fort Wayne Community school district has six high schools to keep secure. They do this by having six SROs hired through the Fort Wayne police department stationed at an assigned high school. These SROs must also work a minimum of seven additional hours for security.

FWACS also has the electronic access at their schools, like SACS. However, due to the fact that the high school administrators and parents have disagreed with the idea, the doors to most of the high schools are not locked.

"It's unfortunate," John Weicker, Director of Security for FWACS, said. "But if the students and teachers don't like it, I can't complain. We haven't really changed anything for about the past 10 years. The extra curricular programs are becoming more prevalent so we have had more security in that area, but that has been the extent of our updates."

All of FWACS high schools have the same basic security measures. Each school has about 50-60 cameras and extensive close circuit televisions to monitor these cameras with. FWACS also has the Pearse Responder system for emergency preparedness.

"All of our doors in every single on of our schools is numbered," Weicker said. "This is a big deal because if there is ever a situation where the police, fire department, or any other security group needs to enter the building, they know where to go. The simplest stuff can often be overlooked."

FWACS schools also come with hand-held metal detectors that are used in specific cases.

"I'm not a believer in walk-through metal detectors," Weicker said. "If students want to sneak something in, the windows are a way to pass things in. With hand-held metal detectors, if there is a cause of suspicion, then a simple pat-down procedure can be done."

Since the installation of these measures, FWACS has still had the same number of arrests throughout the years.

"It's dangerous to use statistics though," Weicker said. "Because we have more security measures, we are catching more people, that is probably why these numbers have stayed the same. The extra emphasis on security makes some people mad. Security by its nature causes people inconvenience, but it needs to be done."

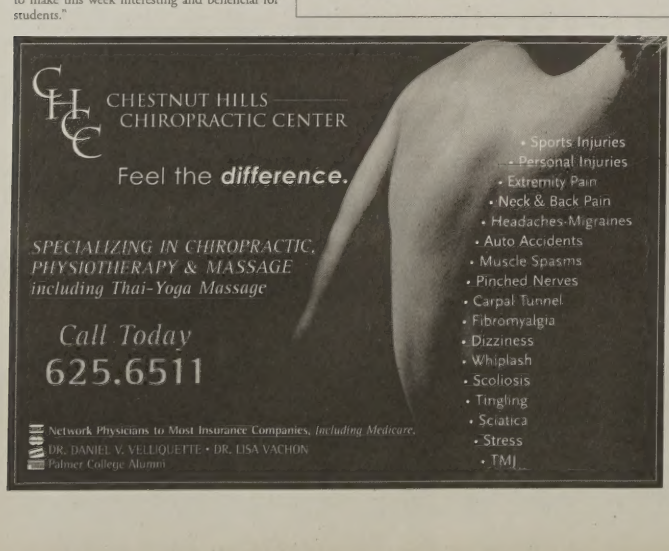
As for funding for these programs, FWACS budgets $100,000 a year to upgrade or replace existing equipment, and $575,711 is spent on security personnel.

"We aren't as fortunate as the SACS district," Weicker said. "And we also have more schools in to keep safe. It's unfortunate that we have a society where crime has a significant impact. The society is becoming every more increasingly violent.

For example, custody in elementary schools is becoming a threat where parents are choosing schools as their battlegrounds. And kid are more willing to school other kids."

While security issues were once on the backburners for many school districts, due to the increase level of threat for students, there has been a determined effort among administrators, principals, and teachers to improve school safety.

"We are blessed for a safe environment, but we must take proactive steps and make sure we keep a secure learning environment," Gross said.



ESL, continued from page 1

ish-speakers and 16 students who speak Punjabi, a language spoken in northern India.

Lana Sipe, the high school's full-time ESL teacher, has seen many students successfully complete the seven-year program.

"The most rewarding part of the program for me is when my student looks me in the eye and can finally communicate with me what they have been trying to say for the past year," Sipe said.

"Many times I am invited to their unique cultural events. I love to take part in their lives outside of school, and feel honored that they would want to share some part of their culture with me."

A new state guideline requires ESL students to pass ISTEP before graduation. Although some educators, including Sipe, are opposed to this mandate, others feel it is necessary.

According to Sipe, one of the frustrating aspects of the program is that not all students complete the program. Some students who enter the program, however, move into the district but leave before graduation when their families move. Guidance counselor Diane Rice is in charge of aiding these new students.

"I will work with each student individually until I can figure out exactly how to help them," Rice said.

Because communication is often difficult for ESL students, Rice sometimes has to resort to using pictures in order to cross the language barrier. Rice is still settling in as the ESL advisor.

The most direct way other students can get involved with the ESL program is by joining the local chapter of the International Club, which is open to new membership throughout the year.

This club has only existed for a few years, but any student who has an interest in other cultures is welcome to join.

The club's main purpose is to share students' heritage with others. Through the club students learn what teenage life is like in countries other than the United States, and specifically non-English speaking countries.

page 3A
issue 3 volume 37
homestead high school
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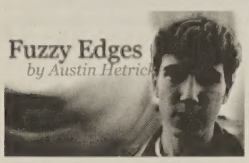
Opinion

Friday, October 6, 2006

Sending out some satire, Godfather style

I watched the Godfather for the first time the other day. My good friend Mike recommended it to me, he said it was the greatest trilogy of crime movies ever made, and I've got to agree with him. All the shooting, the infighting, gambling, the smooth-talking greased up Sicilian gunslingers really bring out the man in you.



What I admired most about the Godfather was the way he dealt with people. In his own words, if the Godfather had a problem, he'd make whoever was causing him trouble "an offa…he couldn't refuse." So if the Godfather had a business associate who wouldn't play ball, he made sure that punk knew who was boss.

My favorite beatdown comes with a certain movie producer who won't cast the Godfather's friend in his movie. This scumbag tells the big man that he can do whatever he wants, this is way out of the Godfather's district. So what does the Godfather do? He kills the guy's horse, and puts the head in bed with the poor guy! Now that's sending a message he wouldn't soon forget. You can bet the Godfather's friend got cast.

So, what does all this crime talk have to do with high school? Here's my newest proposal: from now on, if teachers and principals want their way with students, why don't they kick it up a notch? Next time a kid misbehaves, instead of "suspending him" kill his pet and put it in bed with him. Let's see if some punk sophomore will talk back to a principal after his pooch ends up swimming with the fishes. He'll be doing his homework like an honor student after that performance.

But let's not stop there. If a kid's drug test comes back positive, let's show him what a failed test really means. Why don't we slap the cuffs on him and beat a confession out? That drug dog could be mighty scary snapping at the suspect's heels.

Talk out loud in class: lose a finger.

Pass a note: broken nose.

Inappropriate clothes: go back to class, naked.

Want to complain about the cafeteria food: guess who's on the menu next. Can you say Fried Freshman? Sautéed Sophomore? Junior in a juice box? Senior salad?

For those of you who don't know, what you've just read was called satire. It's when a smart-aleck (me) takes his point to a ridiculous extreme, for laughs (I hope you enjoyed it). I tried this a few issues back when I suggested we revolt en masse and start food fights or give a few kids a swirly or two (some of them need it.)

The funny part about that column wasn't what I wrote, though, it was the reaction I got. A few people took it seriously, even asked my advisor if I was angry at the school, or if I was serious about starting a rebellion.

NO! While I admire the fact that people are willing to take me seriously, let me make a few things clear.

Number one, this paper—this column-- is written for students, not for the parents and administration to read and gawk at.

Number two, please, be smart enough to recognize satire--otherwise I'm really going to have to call in a hit or two next time.

SACS' performance on par with private schools

Across the state of Indiana, many wealthy parents are choosing to pay high prices to send their children to private high schools. When it comes to above-average districts like Southwest Allen County Schools, however, parents have a much more difficult choice to make.

In light of recent testing results and the comments of area students and parents, the editorial board believes that SACS, in terms of facilities, staff, and test results, is a better choice for parents choosing between public and private education in the area.

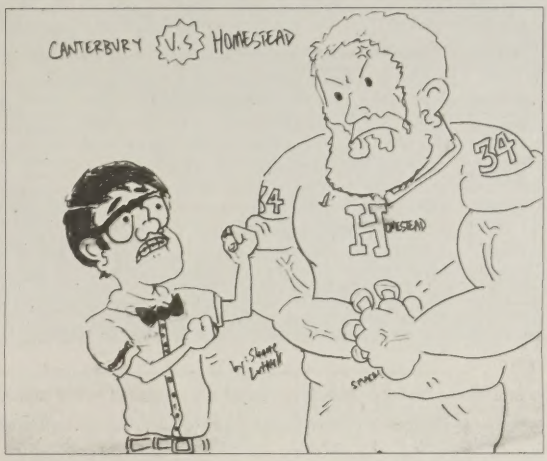
In a July 14 report comparing reading and math scores from 2003, the Education Department found that children in public schools generally performed at the same level in math and reading as comparable children in private schools did.

Because of the affluent suburbs which have helped make SACS so well-known for education, this statistic may underestimate the level at which SACS' students perform at.

Scores on Indiana's statewide high school graduation exam also support this assertion. ISTEP scores for Homestead students are well above the state average with 91% of sophomore's passing the Math test in the 05-06 school year as compared to the 64% state average. 90% of sophomore's also passed the English test vs the 68% state average.

When comparing SACS to the Fort Wayne Community school district (FWACS), it become apparent that SACS outperform many public schools. The ISTEP scores for FWACS sophomore's during the 05-06 school year fall below the state average with 56% passing the English section and 51% passing the Math section.

The most startling statistics come when looking at Canterbury. 99% of students at Canterbury pass both sections of ISTEP, only 9 to 10% more than SACS students. Canterbury students also pay about $10,000 dollars more than Homestead students.



Shannon Collins (11) is a new student to Homestead. Previously she attended Canterbury.

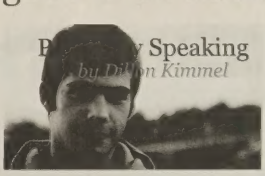
"I would say that the education at Homestead and Canterbury is about the same," she said. "Homestead is really good compared to a lot of public schools. I went to Plymouth before, and Homestead is a lot better. I would say that its pretty much the same as Canterbury, but cheaper. The people here [at Homestead] are really friendly too."

Collins admits that there are positives with Canterbury.

"The class sizes were smaller and it seemed as though the teachers had more time to pay attention to you. But I like the bigger environment at Homestead. It's nice. At Canterbury we had to do things like go to chapel. During our study halls, it was pretty much all free time. You didn't have to stay in your class, you could do whatever."

The argument that private schools offer a higher caliber education than do public schools does not hold for this area. Test scores, the long tenured staff, and the affluence of SACS taxpayers lead the editorial board that in southwest, public and private are performing equally well; the only difference is that private costs thousands more.

Kimmel: It feels good to be back in the running



In late August 2005, I quit the cross country team. I had enough on my plate with this publication, A.P. classes, and an upcoming mission trip to El Salvador that I was building from the ground up. I didn't think I could handle another responsibility. And maybe I was right. But that didn't make it any easier leaving a sport, and a team, that I truly loved.

To be honest, quitting the team did the opposite that I had intended; things in fact grew steadily worse. I didn't have the outlet that cross country had provided me for so many years, and I fell into a bit of a funk. I was unhappy, and I couldn't figure out why. I tried burying myself in my work, trying not to think about the painfully obvious void that I now was faced with every day. But once the school year started winding down, and my responsibilities were no longer as time-consuming, I was forced to face this mysterious missing link. I did some serious soul searching, and with the support of Coach Shenfeld, I decided to begin running again.

I spent the first month of the summer running on my own, knowing I was a whole year behind the other guys. So, naturally, my stomach was churning the first day I showed up to practice. It was a particularly hot day, the hazy sun beating down on us with particular prejudice, like we had done something to offend it, and it in turn was teaching us a lesson. We ran six miles that day, but it's not the run that I want to focus on but rather the reception I received when I walked through those all-too-familiar locker room doors. I was greeted with an enthusiastic "Hello," a friendly "How ya' been?," and a slew of "Welcome backs." And then it was business as usual. From that moment on, it was as if I never missed a practice, never walked out on the team in the eleventh hour, and certainly never put my running career on hold for an entire calendar year.

And so the stage was set for a successful season. I figured I would need about a month to catch my teammates and would soon have a varsity spot in the bag. Just like my freshman and sophomore years, I would soon be scoring points on a consistent basis, contributing to our team's success. All would be well, and I would quickly pick up right where I had left off a year before.

Only I was dead wrong.

Unlike years past when our team had a questionable work ethic, Coach Shenfeld deemed the 2006 team one of the best practice squads he has ever coached. We didn't cut corners, shirk on distance runs, or slow the pace due to fatigue. In fact, there were many circumstances where Coach had to tell us to slow down, a concept that is unheard of among cross country enthusiasts. The guys pushed the pace constantly because they wanted to get better, striving for excellence each day. We might not have been the most talented, but we were always one of the best conditioned teams at each meet.

So I never did catch my teammates this year, at least most of them. I never ran a varsity race, and I never scored a point for the varsity team. Was I disappointed? Sure. Was I discouraged? Of course. But did it hurt my experience? Not a chance.

I was encouraged by everyone. The team urged me on in practice, Coach spoke with me behind the scenes to check up on how things were going, and Ian Wilson, our Assistant Coach, yelled almost as loud as my own father during the races, refusing to let me back down.

It is difficult for me to express the gratitude I have for the teammates and coaches for welcoming me back. I would not trade these past four months for anything (though a 15:45, which happens to be the HHS 5K record, would certainly be nice). My mysterious void is filled, filled by 17 teammates and two coaches who didn't even have to think twice about allowing a mutineer back into the boat.

So to all who call the back corner of the locker room home, I say thank you. Thanks for every goose touched, golf cart commandeered, Frosty slurped, and chant bellowed.

What a ride it's been.

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Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

page 4A
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life

'Chili Peppers' strike again
see page 6A for review

PHOTO USED UNDER FREE USE LAW

Friday, October 6, 2006

sexeducation

Left to state education departments, sex education is often limited to abstinence with little emphasis on safe alternatives

Story by Karolina Heyduk

Sex, drugs, and rock and roll. The latter requires talent beyond the average high school student, and drugs are illegal in all fifty states, but sex has found its own little corner in high schools across the country. Health classes in junior and high schools usually touch on sexual education, but there are no federal laws that mandate what topics should be covered – in fact, states are free to decide whether to teach sexual education at all.

A Youth Risk Behavior survey conducted in 2003 reported that 46.7% of high school students have sexual intercourse by the time they graduate.

Yet according to the same survey company, the teen birth rate declined by 27% from 1999 to 2000, with an increase in effective contraceptive use contributing to 75% of the decrease of teen pregnancies.

Still, students at Homestead find that their knowledge of contraception wasn't taught in school.

"Sex-ed in high school was basically not present. It wasn't ever emphasized, and was barely touched on," Stephania Turkette (12) said.

A federal program established in 1996 gives funds to states who teach abstinence in their health education. States who qualify must meet guidelines, including teaching abstinence as "the expected standard" outside of marriage and that sex outside of marriage will have "harmful psychological and physical effects."

While the guidelines are meant to protect adolescents from unwanted pregnancy and STDs, they are unmindful of alternatives.

"A lot of people are not going to refrain from having sex, and they should know about all the options they have for so-called safe sex," Turkette said.

According to Planned Parenthood, Indiana is one of the 28 states that doesn't require sexual education to be taught as part of the health curriculum. The Indiana Department of Education recommends that when sexual education is taught, districts should emphasize abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage.

A study in 1999 done by Family Planning Prospectives showed that while 86% of public school students above the fifth grade attend school districts where sexual education is taught, 51% of those districts treat abstinence as favorable option in sexual activity and 35% have abstinence-only programs.

"Because there's no doubt that teenagers have sex," Alex Tordi (11) said, "you might as well teach them to be safe and why to be safe, but you can still teach abstinence for those who are still a virgin."

Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is one of the Indiana school districts that chooses to teach sex education as part of the health curriculum.

The Fort Wayne based organization True Life Choices (TLC) has programs in both Summit and Woodside middle schools.

The goal of the program, according to the TLC website, is to "not only encourage the students to recognize the value of sexual abstinence until marriage as their best choice," but to also "provide the skills needed to successfully implement the choice."

"I don't remember talking about safe sex [in middle school]," Tordi said, "just no sex at all."

While students are taught how to avoid peer pressure toward sex, sexual activity among high school students is still near 50 percent. In an abstinence-only environment, teens are left to learn about contraception from magazines and friends or from their parents

> "Sex-ed in high school was basically not present. It wasn't ever emphasized, and was barely touched on."
> -Stephania Turkette (12)

The Journal of School Health polled to find that 94% of parents deem it necessary to talk to their children about sexual information.

But a poll of Indiana parents by the Sexual Literacy Survey taken in 2003 says that parents "were most likely to talk about love, family values, abstinence, correct names for body parts, and body image; they were least likely to talk about masturbation, condoms and other forms of birth control, and sexual orientation."

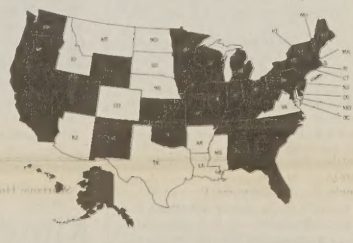
"I learned [about contraception] from a cousin who told me a story," a student who wished to remain anonymous said. "He said if I was ever going to do it I should put on a condom."

SEX ED 101

Contrary to popular belief, sex ed is not required curriculum material by federal law. States decide whether or not to put it into the curriculum. Currently 22 states require sexual education be taught in school.

STATES THAT REQUIRE SEX ED TO BE TAUGHT

STATES THAT REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE STD/HIV EDUCATION



source: as of January 2005, according to sexetc.com, info box by larry buchanan

CLUB BRIEFS

JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
The next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 16 from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at Hari Vasu's home. Meanwhile JCL is busily preparing to welcome hundreds of Latin students to Homestead for the annual President's conference on Nov. 11.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
For those who cannot attend the meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10, please pick up an agenda from Stephen Clough, room 104. Members are reminded to pay their $15 due.

'ARSENIC AND OLD LACE'
Students interested in working on crew, costumes, makeup, props, the program, the set, or ticket sales should attend an organizational meeting on Monday, Oct. 9 in Miss Fisher's room (416). For other questions, see Miss McCombs.

MOCK TRIAL CLUB
Students who were unable to attend the meeting on Thursday should see Mr. Hill in room 501.

GUIDANCE
Juniors and seniors should sign up in Student Services if interested in any of the visiting colleges: Hanover College, Taylor University, and IPFW on Monday, Oct. 9, Wabash College on Thursday Oct. 12, and Brown Mackie College and Bethal College on Friday Oct. 13.

SADD ideals strengthened by speaker

By Meghan McArdle
Writer

Activities for Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) are officially underway once again this school year. Key chains are currently being passed out on birthdays; the group's members are already on their way to planning Red Ribbon Week, scheduled the week of October 22.

Yet amidst all of the commotion SADD took a break at its meeting on Tuesday, September 26, and students had the rare privilege to listen to someone who has real life experience speak about dealing with the effects of drug and alcohol addiction in families.

"We felt that is was a good idea to show students the other side of the story and how families are affected by decisions people make," Karen Hirschy, business teacher and SADD sponsor, said. "It also reminds students that when you make bad choices the people around you are affected."

Hirschy and the other SADD advisors hoped that as students listened to an ordinary person speak about drug and alcohol abuse, the effect of just one person's decision on those surrounding him became clear.

"I was surprised at what the speaker had to say," Megan Hirschy (10), SADD secretary, said. "You always hear about that kind of stuff but I've never actually met anyone who experienced problems with drugs and alcohol in their family. It was also surprising how much adults' actions influence the children around them. Now, more then ever, if I know someone who is struggling with these kinds of problems, I won't just let it happen. I will do something about it."

SADD, although perhaps best known for their programs on drinking and driving, hopes to expand their impact on students' destructive decisions to issues including teen suicide, anorexia, and depression.

Currently SADD is working on fundraisers with the goal that they will make enough money to go to SADD state and national conventions this year.

Last year the local chapter was named State Co-Chapter of the Year. The SADD chapter has a reputation for incorporating fun activities into student life, and this goal remains.

SADD traditions like Red Ribbon week, Prom Promise, and Eat and Drive are scheduled to continue, and the chapter has also added several new activities to this year's calendar.

"During halftime at basketball games this year we are hosting a game called "Dash for Cash," which is kind of like couch potato," Hirschy said. "It's really going to be a lot of fun and we hope many students will participate."

Throughout Christmas break, a commercial will run at the Rave Motion Pictures Theater at Jefferson Pointe, sponsored by SADD and a grant. The video is being produced through a contest in art teacher Lisa Ricker's film class. The video will encourage students to make good decisions.

National Merit Scholars announced

Five seniors from Homestead were named Semifinalists in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship program. Emma Farnsworth, Katherine Romelfanger, Natalie Sistrunk, Harikiran Vasu and Bradley Zehr are among 16,000 scholastically talented seniors who are eligible to continue in the competition for approximately $8,200 in Merit Scholarship awards.

Kimberly Sanders is a Semifinalist in the 2007 National Achievement Program conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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Ellana Hall: steadfast in her faith

Finding time for youth group, cello, charity work in the Grand Bahamas

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

She's not afraid of her faith, and she's not afraid of being who she is. In the halls of Homestead where individual faces blur into one student body, senior Ellana Hall does her best to keep her footing on her beliefs and her head above the pressures of high school. An active member of the school's orchestra and of her church's youth group, she dreams of majoring in business not to rule the corporate world but instead to be able to open a humble coffee shop. Ellana sat down with the Spartana to talk about her experiences with her missions trips, her views on Homestead's arsenal of drug prevention programs, and her take on high school gossip.

Spartana: How did you get involved with orchestra?

Ellana: Well I play the cello, and I've played since the sixth grade. My older sister played the violin, and I used to live in Carmel, and orchestra was really encouraged. I decided to play the cello because I like the sound of it. We're supposed to practice at least a half an hour a day, absolute minimum. I'll be honest; I don't do it everyday because I still have to balance out homework, work, and church. But it is time consuming. After six years, I still like it..

Spartana: Aside from orchestra, what else keeps you busy?

Ellana: I got to Emmanuel Community Church. We go on missions trips to the Grand Bahamas in the summer. It sounds more vacation-like, but we do a lot of work and it's a neat experience to see how those people live. We're in partnership with a Catholic church down there in a community called Hunters. Father Reggie is the reverend of the church and he pretty much gives us our tasks. We work in the community; the first year we helped rebuild a home for a family.

This year we did more work with the actual church, because they're right on the seaside and they got struck by the hurricanes. We repainted a bunch of classrooms and…a house, and we handed out [toiletries] to the people.

Spartana: How important is your faith to you?

Ellana: I don't want to say that I'm a perfect kid and that I've never done anything wrong and that I look down upon those who do, but I've made my mistakes but I've learned through people who are close to me. I've seen what happens and choose to keep my faith strong.

I honestly think it gets me through a lot of stuff. I've had family issues – not anything horrible – just a chaotic lifestyle and it's helped me get through that, and it's helped my entire family get through it. It kept us strong.

Spartana: What your plans are after high school?

Ellana: I'll probably continue to play [the cello] but I'm…not going to major in anything musical. I know I want to go to a Christian college, but I'm not a hundred percent sure where yet. I'm going to major in business. I'd honestly like to own a coffee shop, kind of Christian oriented –that's important to me. Kind of an outreach program. That's kind of what I'm hoping for.

> "I've seen what happens and choose to keep my faith strong. I honestly think it gets me through a lot of stuff."
> -Ellana Hall (12)

Spartana: How about reading? Is it a school-only thing?

Ellana: I took Etymology last year, and before then I read some, but it wasn't like I did it on my free time. I love reading for leisure, whatever I want to read. I love it and I think kids should. It really [helps] your imagination. With books that you have to read for school, if you read them on your own time, I think you get a lot more out of them and you enjoy them more instead of having to have this many pages done by this time. It just takes the fun out of it.

Spartana: How do you feel about Homestead's security measures with the recent school shootings in mind?

Ellana: I think I agree with wanting to keep the school clean and safe. I don't want to go to a school where there are drug deals in the middle of the hallways, or people are bringing weapons to school. We have the drug dog, and we have the drug testing.

It seems a little excessive. They didn't catch a whole lot of people - that I know of - with the drug testing. I understand wanting to keep the facilities clean, but it also makes you feel kind of like you're going to a prison.

Spartana: What would you tell students who struggle with knowing who they are?

Ellana: Up until abut sixth grade I was worried about what people thought and tried to be mainstream, tried to be that cool kid. When I moved here I didn't really care what people thought. I was like well, you know, it's who I am.

It helps when you have friends who are encouraging and you can be who you are around them. It is hard to stand up for your beliefs. [If] you don't drink or you don't smoke, it's hard to stand up for that. It also goes for people who do that stuff. They don't want to be seen as the bad kid but they are [seen that way], even if they're not. Stereotypes are things everyone has to go through. It's difficult.

Spartana: The evil of all evils: high school gossip.

Ellana: Everyone does it. I try to stay away from it, I honestly wouldn't say I'm an awful gossiper, but I am guilty.

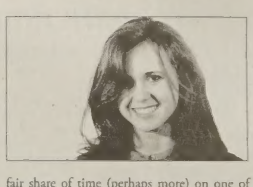
Gossip hurts, whether it's you or a friend, and you hear something that happens. It's hard to mind your own business, too. It's just something every kid goes through, like stereotypes, and its probably never going to end.

A column by Emma Farnsworth

A nurse's helping hand

Students fake sick to skip class, forgetting to appreciate the true kindness of nursing staff

By Emma Farnsworth
Columnist



Complain, if you must, about high school cliques, unfair grades, ridiculous rules, boring assemblies, or even a shortage of frosted cookies at C lunch. Gloat, if you will, over our nice turf field, excellent teachers, awesome administration, and cute–er, I mean, efficient drug dog.

But whatever you do, don't gripe about our school's clinic in front of me, for I have more affection and loyalty towards that little office than any sports team.

If there is one overlooked yet praiseworthy aspect of our school, it is the compassion of our nurses and clinic aides. Beth Quigley, Susie Stace, and the other members of the kind and understanding staff make that sterile white room by the discipline office a haven when you're feeling like crap.

From stomach flu to stuffy noses to scraped knees, any ailment is treated with sympathy and genuine caring. Not only will they wrap your swollen ankle and administer Tylenol, but you will also receive a smile before you hobble back to class. Visiting the clinic is like being handed an umbrella in the rain: you're still wet, but the fact that someone cares makes you feel so much better.

Over the past three years, I've spent my fair share of time (perhaps more) on one of those blue padded cots, and observed as the sniffling shuffle through the automatic door. Many patients seem to adopt a pathetic, monotonous sick whisper when they are called upon to describe their symptoms, as if they are too weak to speak.

I do it too – talk to me in the waiting area and I'm fine, but ask me how I'm feeling once I've crossed the threshold, and I suddenly sound like I'm on my deathbed. Of course, most visitors are actually sick, but it's more fun to watch the students who are obviously avoiding a chem test.

We all know that vague internal complaints are the best: "My head hurts…my stomach hurts…I feel kinda dizzy," because it's harder to tell if the ailment is fake.

Specific enough to cause concern, yet fuzzy enough not to raise eyebrows when the thermometer speaks the truth: you don't have a high temp.

Yet, amazingly and wonderfully, whether you come in for a hangnail or pink eye, you are treated with respect and concern. Quigley and company care about your well-being! They're so…nice! Even if it's 94% obvious that you're a dirty rotten faker, they'll let you lie down before going back to class.

I've never attended another high school, but from conversations with friends about this matter, I've come to the conclusion that Homestead is pretty lucky to have such a wonderful clinic.

Besides the icebags and coughing students, the nurses must deal with the all the paperwork and organizational aspects of school health that we don't see.

They deserve respect. Granted, our nurses aren't stitching up gashes or putting kids on morphine drips, but they do everything they can to make you feel better. Sometimes kindness is the only miracle pill you need.

CARING FOR STUDENTS

80 Average number of students who check into the clinic each day

2 Number of nurses at Homestead; one part-time and one full-time

1ST Most important meal of the day according to head nurse, Beth Quigley

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Seniors give words of advice to underclassmen

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

This school is their specialty. They know it all- everything from what classes to take to which lunch lines to go to. After spending over three years within the school walls, the senior class of 2007 is full of advice and pointers for underclassmen on how to take advantage of high school, where students have a chance to branch out both academically and socially.

"I really regret not taking more social risks and not meeting new people," Cara Smith (12) said. "Academically, I regret taking so many risks and not studying for tests. Don't blow off tests!"

> *"Don't stereotype people. I've been stereotyped so many times by people who don't even know me."*
> Cara Smith
> Senior

Most students would agree that senior year is meant to be the best. But how a student schedules his classes in the first three years of high school can affect just how enjoyable senior year can be.

"The only thing I would ever change about my academic career at Homestead is when I chose to take gym," Francesca Cardillo (12) said. "I'm taking a full year of gym this year because I put it off so long, and it's probably my biggest regret. Find time to fit it in before you're a junior."

Aside from making sure Physical Education is a top priority for a pre-senior schedule, advice on taking AP classes whenever offered seemed to be a repeating occurrence.

"This school has an amazing AP program, take advantage of it [and] take some AP courses. Yeah, they will be hard, but they teach you great work ethic," Dylan Rudy (12) said.

While classes are an important part of school, so are extracurricular activities. Seniors advise students who aren't already taking part in an after school club or sport to consider joining one of the many offered.

"I wish someone would have encouraged me to get involved in the several community service clubs [and] groups we have at Homestead," said Cardillo. "I got involved with community service originally because you need it for college applications (a sorry excuse), and because I was inducted into National Honors Society. Only then did I realize how much I enjoyed doing good things for the community, and I deeply regret not getting involved much sooner than my junior and senior years."

But school is made up of more than just studying and being involved; every 47 minutes students have a six minute passing period to socialize, but without meeting new people, high school can be tough.

"Joining clubs will help underclassmen find friends," Naomi Sloan (12).

Making friends is only half of it. Under the pressures of gossip and stereotypes, keeping those friends is just as important.

"Don't stereotype people. I've been stereotyped so many times by people who don't even know me," Smith said.

Overall, seniors remind underclassmen to remember that high school is a temporary phase of life. Four years of school and students move on, leaving many friends and experiences - good or bad - behind.

"Find good, nice people to be friends with," Sloan said, "and don't worry about how "cool" they are because in 20 years, who is going to care?"

Key Club makes giving back to community easy

With monthly themes and flexible hours, anyone can join, volunteer

By Megan Miller
Writer

Tom Cruise and Bill Clinton. The common link: Key Club alums. With over 150 student members, Key Club allows students to volunteer and to get involved with the community. Weekly meetings and a flexible volunteer schedule allow for even the busiest of students to give back.

Brad Zehr (12), President of Key Club, has put in many hours to better the community, along with Vice President Julia Springer (12), Secretary Stephania Turkette (12), and Vasundhara Bhargava (11). Although this year is Zehr's first year leading the club, the work he has done is tremendous according to Key Club's adviser, social studies teacher Susan Summers.

"Brad is a respectful leader and I know other members look up to him," Summers said.

With meetings every Thursday, which last approximately 20-30 minutes, Key Club gives the members an opportunity to discuss and receive project duties. Every two weeks new projects are reassigned to students. The only requirement is a commitment to volunteer 25 hours and to attend 12 of the 36 Key Club meetings.

Requirements and dues aside, Key Club members participate in a variety of volunteering activities, ranging from working at Lutheran Hospital to maintaining the recycling program at school.

"I think Key Club is a great way for students to give back to the community and use their time to really make a difference," Margaret Distler (10) said.

Key Club has monthly themes; September had a "back-to-school" theme where members collected school supplies to donate to the United Way. October is "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" where donations to the charity are collected instead of Halloween candy.

The list of Key Club volunteering opportunities is endless. The Club recently collected 150,000 pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

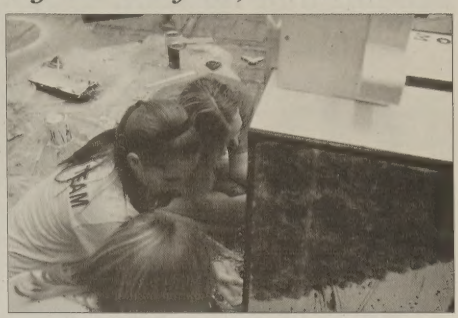
"[It's] a place where families stay for a low cost while their child is at Riley Children's Hospital," Zehr said.

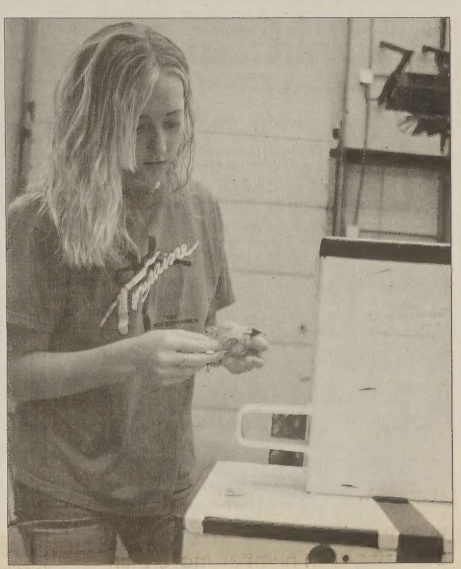
Key Club is also currently selling green bracelets at two dollars a piece for Cadence Ridgen, a 18-month-old Fort Wayne girl recently diagnosed with a rare condition called Hurler's Syndrome. After a stem-cell transplant from an umbilical cord blood was performed, she is doing well.

"This is my second year being involved in Key Club and I just love the feeling that this club gives me," Collette Spears (10) said. "There is nothing better than the feeling of accomplishment and achievement."

Margaret Distler (10) and Arezoo Nazari (10) have recently spent their time repainting newspaper bins in blue and gold, which can be found on streets downtown. Students can join Senior Representative Mandi Mast in creating Cards for Kids that are given to very sick children in the hospital. A new program, Project READS, will be hosted at Homestead in order to help children from Kindergarten to third grade learn to read.

"Key Club is one of the most active clubs at Homestead with many diverse opportunities," Zehr said. "Being a committed Key Club member says so much about personal responsibility and character."





Top: A group of Key Club members combine their efforts to restore old newspaper bins which can be seen around downtown Fort Wayne. Below Left: Megan O'Mara (9) and Allie Quintano (9) work on a newspaper bin together. Below: O'Mara puts the finishing touches on one of the newspaper bins.

graphics larry buchanan

A taste of culture, firsthand

By Karolina Heyduk, reporting contributed by David Greco
Life Editor, Writer

Going to high school in the Midwest may seem removed to some students, but for others who take advantage of various school-sponsored trips abroad, the world doesn't stop at the school doors. In the past, Homestead students have been able to visit France and England, and a new trip to Mexico is scheduled for this summer.

While preparation for such trips is lengthy, the experience gleaned by students can far outweigh the tedious planning stages. Every trip must be approved by the school board and go through the standard field trip approval process. Teachers must begin planning the trip – either on their own or through a student travel company – far in advance.

"Normally, if a trip is being taken in June, we start planning aggressively in September or October," French teacher Gregory Fryzel said.

With thousands of dollars invested into ticket and hotel fares, students are expected to come away with a new cultural awareness. The advantage of traveling abroad is to hear the language outside the classroom, as well as to see the sights and sounds of another country in real life and not from the pages of a textbook.

"I feel it's important to have trips abroad in high school," Kim Sanders (12) said after traveling with Clough this past summer. "It gives students a chance to experience other cultures and see the places we always read about."

"It's an awesome experience [to] go into a country after you've had some preparation and be able to be speak the language...." said foreign language teacher Sue Speidel about the trip to Mexico.

Teachers stress that it isn't a vacation, but a learning experience. For the trips to France, students were to prepare presentations on various monuments. In England, students visited landmarks and cities that are often discussed in Clough's classes.

"My notion was to give back to my students some of the benefits that I had gained from all the trips I had taken," Clough said.

Although traveling to another country is a new experience for many, students who go are required to maintain a level of maturity and respect.

"Traveling abroad is a privilege, not a right, so we expect our students to be the best representatives of our high school and of our country," Speidel said.

Trips are scheduled depending on the group of students in any given year (Clough privately recruits students he feels would be willing to take part in the history and culture of England) and whether events in the world make traveling abroad a viable option.

"I've been going on trips with students ever since 1982," Fryzel said. "Because of the complications with world security and my own general reluctance to be responsible for the lives of so many young people, I have abandoned the idea of traveling to Europe with students."

Still, students who have gone on past trips find their experiences to be positive.

"These are the years in which, despite what most teens think, we will have the most time to experience these things," Will Kioultzopoulos (12) said. "[Going] in high school gives you the opportunity to experience first hand what you are learning."

While there is no scheduled trip to England or France this summer, the trip to Mexico will be the first for Spanish students since 1999 when a group traveled to Spain.

"I think it's pretty awesome that most kids at homestead at least have the opportunity to go on some kind of a travel program," said Kioultzopoulos.

'Red Hot Chili Peppers' showcase their talent

'Stadium Arcadium' has classic Chili Pepper style with funky new rhythms

By Brad Lufkin
Writer

Released on May 9, 2006, "Stadium Arcadium" is the Red Hot Chili Peppers' ninth studio album and their first ever double album.

Debuting at number one in many countries all over the world, "Stadium Arcadium" became the first album of the Red Hot Chili Peppers to debut at the top of the United States charts after selling nearly half a million copies during its first week. Selling nearly 1.5 million copies in the United States, the title sold over five million worldwide.

The very ambitious album is separated into two discs with 14 songs a piece, entitled "Jupiter" and "Mars," totaling just over two hours of music.

So much artistry was needed to put together such a great variety of songs, and there's something in the album to suit everyone. Although some argue that "Stadium Arcadium" may contain a few too many songs, it is still a very well put together collection mixing classic Chili Pepper tunes with newer styles.

"Stadium Arcadium" features all four members of the Red Hot Chili Peppers who seem to be at the height of their career.

Some say vocalist Anthony Kiedis is too old to continue to produce albums. However this album plays very strongly on his rolling vocals, which are still as good, or even better, than when the band first started. Clearly he has mastered his voice.

Flea, the group's bassist, has spent years consolidating his frantic playing method to a more melodic style while connecting more with Chad Smith, the band's drummer.

Smith is still the dependable rhythm master that he always has been. He keeps his beats simple but extremely effective, and he definitely doesn't just fade into the background like some drummers tend to do. He plays just as an important role as Flea or Anthony. Chad and Flea together make one of the best rhythm sections in music, going back to the funk-rock style in songs like "Hump de Bump."

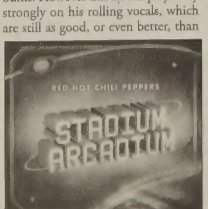
Guitarist John Frusciante has some of his best moments on this album. He gives the album a certain depth and demonstrates his talent throughout every single song. In "Charlie" and especially in "Tell Me Baby" he showcases his high-pitched vocals in solos.

Songs like "Turn It Again," "Especially in Michigan," and "We Believe" make you really appreciate the great guitar solos, the vocals, and the nice rhythms that go perfectly with every part of the song.

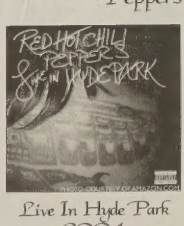
The record is hypnotic at times. Songs like "Slow Cheetah" and "Snow (Hey Oh)" capture the listener who can lose himself in the music.

Near the end of the album, the band doesn't let loose as much as they did "back in the day." "Hump de Bump" gives you a glimpse at what they were like in their earlier years with classic funky lyrics.

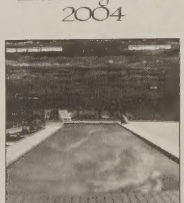
This album from one of the best rock bands of all time is full of fresh and different music. Every album of theirs is different. Some claim this album is the Red Hot Chili Peppers' best while others claim it to be their "jump the shark" album. Nonetheless, it is an album worth listening to.



Other Albums By The Red Hot Chili Peppers



Live In Hyde Park
2004



Californication
1999

One Hot Minute
1995

tvreviews

The Colbert Report

Airs: at 11:30 p.m. EST on Comedy Central

Airing right after Jon Stewart's Daily Show, Steven Colbert is the pompous and right-wing anchor on his show the Colbert "Repore," said with a silent 't' because "it's more French." Taking the daily news for a spin, Colbeft manages to ridicule everyone – liberals with sarcastic scathing of their antics and conservatives with his over-the-top impersonation of an indignant right-wing pundit. His mockery often showcases the zealousness of the media at large, casting judgments on everything from the newest entertainment and fads to the latest scandals among politicians. But no matter the viewer's political leanings, the "Report" is downright wacky and entertaining, and Colbert is often called over-the-top when it comes to T.V. personality. With recent fire drawn toward mock-news sources like Colbert and the Daily Show, the "Report" is worth watching just to see the fuss the "real" news anchors are making over what is simply intelligent, good humor.

Curb Your Enthusiasm

Airs: Reruns on HBO, no word of sixth season

Larry David, creator of Seinfeld, stars in this offbeat comedy that follows a fictionalized version of himself as he goes about his normal life in Hollywood: home, work, lunches with friends, and visits to the doctor's office. However, in the fashion of the socially awkward George Costanza, Larry manages to transform even the most mundane situations into fodder for hilarious outcomes, usually at his own expense. Cheryl Hines co-stars as Larry's wife, a voice of reason to Larry's neuroses. Jeff Garlin plays Larry's manager and friend, who often sets the circumstances for Larry's misfortunes in motion or else acts as a partner in crime. Susie Essmen is also very funny as Jeff's brash wife, who is never shy about criticizing Larry. Fictional and famous characters pepper the cast in unexpected ways, fitting brilliantly into the tight plot lines. The actors do not work from a script: dialogue is improvised from a brief outline of each scene. As a result, the show is fresh, natural, and wonderfully unpredictable.

Heroes

Airs: Mondays at 9:00 p.m. on NBC

Part action, part sci-fi, and part drama, the new show "Heroes" could become this year's "Lost." The cast is "a seemingly random group of individuals," according the special advisory at the start of the pilot episode. The show, created by Tim Kring, stars Sendhil Ramamurthy, Milo Ventimiglia, Adrian Pasdar, Hayden Panettiere, Ali Larter, Noah Gray-Cabey, Santiago Cabrera, and Masi Oka playing ordinary people who discover that they have extraordinary powers. Some of these people, who range from a male nurse to a Las Vegas stripper, discover that they can instantaneously recover from injuries, make time stand still, and subconsciously predict the future through painting, among other amazing abilities. The ultimate goal of the "heroes," who all become connected, is to save the world (as cliché as it sounds). All of the characters become involved in each others' lives through the antagonist, an Indian geneticist, who wishes to use the heroes' DNA to his own advantage.

sudoku bookreviews

	3			5		6	8	
	6		1					
5	2		4				7	3
						7		
6			7	3	4			9
		7						
3	8				5		9	6
					1		2	
	9	6		4			1	

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

by Mark Haddon

Genre: Fiction
Synopsis: Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old, prime number-loving autistic boy, is transfixed by the murder of his neighbor's dog and sets forth upon a mission to find the killer. Along the way his hatred for human touch and lying, and his incapability of understanding a simple joke reveal him to be a lonely but lovable child.
Recommended Because: Haddon appeals to the intellectual mind in this story, giving it a witty and unconventional outlook on life. Christopher, like everyone, has his problems but he's got a sensible way of working through them.

Dave Barry is *Not* Making This Up

by Dave Barry

Genre: Humor
Synopsis: A collection of articles from his Miami Herald column, Barry's book contains stories about UFO chasers, his two wimpy guard dogs, an encounter with a mugger, a collection of the worst songs ever, and much more.
Recommended Because: Not only does Barry create a book that contains non-stop laughs, but the reader can relate to some of the zany situations as well.

Teacher Man

by Frank McCourt

Genre: Autobiography
Synopsis: McCourt's third novel (after "Angela's Ashes" and "Tis") is the story of the author's thirty years teaching in the New York public school system.
Recommended Because: As with his previous works, page after page, the author's insight and wit impact the reader. This work has a strong message and is well thought out and well organized. This is an eye-opening book into the author's life and into our society as a whole.

The Things They Carried

by Tim O'Brien

Genre: Memoir/Fiction
Synopsis: Tim O'Brien recounts tales from his years in Vietnam, but the novel is neither straight fiction nor plain memoir, but an eerie combination of both. Although many of the stories never happened to the author, O'Brien uses the half truth to blend the lines between fiction and reality in a supremely moving war novel.
Recommended Because: "The Things They Carried" is a classic when it comes to war novels that manages to be both poignant and memorable on human truths and beautifully written in terms of literary standards.

filmreviews

Jackass Number Two

Starring: Johnny Knoxville and gang

If you've seen the first one or even just the television show, then the movie is no different. The only things new here are the stunts they perform and the injuries they receive, and there isn't a plot to summarize, either. Some of the tricks include sitting on a seesaw in a rodeo arena with a charging bull, launching themselves into a lake with a rocket propelled shopping cart, standing directly in front of a riot mine used for embassy attacks, attaching a leech to one's eye, and about a million others that I cannot describe accurately in this review. It's disgusting, it's juvenile, and it's laugh-out-loud hilarious, but it's not for kids. Even if you watch all sorts of R movies, there's a reason the theaters are cracking down on this one; it's the closest thing I've seen to NC-17. Jackass has no artistic merit whatsoever, and it's really very stupid. But it's also one hilarious riot.

Purdy's Rating: ★★½

Fearless

Starring: Jet Li

Films like this one are the reason I enjoy martial arts movies so much. Not only is the combat brilliantly choreographed at breakneck speed (an important factor in any martial arts film) but the story here is majestic, well-written, and insightful. The film opens at an international fighting tournament, with Chinese warrior Huo Yuanjia defeating everyone that comes his way. As he fights a Japanese foe, we flash back to when he was a kid and watch his epic quest unfold. As a boy he is surrounded by Wushu, a martial art in which his father would not let him partake, but he still manages to teach much of it to himself. After his father dies, he receives real training. His only focus is restoring the family name and becoming a renowned and undefeated fighter; in other words, he just cares about winning. But after everything he has left is taken from him, he simply wanders off into the wilderness. Upon returning to his home many years later, he decides to start his own school and spread the true meaning of Wushu. Finally, he enters into the international competition and the movie comes full circle, but Li isn't going to quit the genre that made him famous without a powerful ending. The themes present in this film are thought-provoking and show why the Chinese are so much better than we are at so-called "action" movies. If this is truly to be his final martial arts epic, then he ended on a very high note. For those who enjoyed similar movies like House of Flying Daggers or Hero, Fearless won't disappoint.

Purdy's Rating: ★★★½

Ashton Kutcher and Kevin Costner in *The Guardian*. All photos used under fair use.

The Guardian honors the U.S. Coast Guard

Starring: Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher

There's something about these military branch movies that are so appealing to us, even though they're somewhat cliché. We've seen it all many times before, but for Americans it really doesn't seem to get that old. It's just a good formula that works, and now it's the U.S. Coast Guard's turn to use it. What we see this time is basically Top Gun with snorkels and helicopters, but since I've never been a huge fan of that movie, I might go so far as to say that The Guardian is better. We are first introduced to Senior Chief Ben Randall, played exceptionally well by Kevin Costner, who is an aging but legendary rescue swimmer living in Alaska. Even though he was offered a desk job when he reached his forties, he still continues to do what he does best: jumping out of helicopters directly into the maelstrom and saving the lives of those stranded in horrific ocean storms.

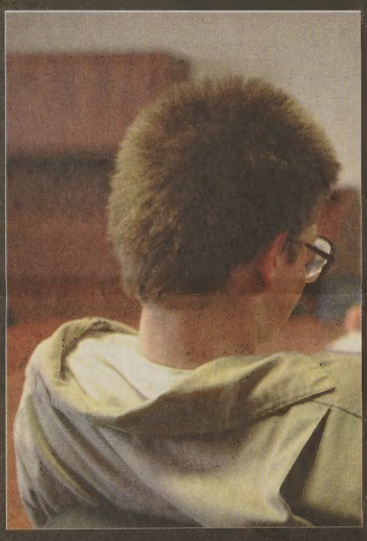
That is, until he is devastated by the loss of his best friend and crew when a Sea Hawk helicopter goes down during a rescue operation. Seeing the effect this has had on Randall, his commanding officer sends him to a Coast Guard academy to teach. Knowing much more about the real deal than the rest of the instructors, he quickly turns the school on its head with his unorthodox approach and manages to expel half the class within the first few weeks. Parallel to this storyline is that of Ashton Kutcher's character Jake Fischer, a determined, if not a bit arrogant, swim champ who is also haunted by the loss of his team. While at first there is much tension between the two characters, Fischer soon finds a mentor in the Senior Chief, and both of them rediscover some things about themselves as they endure the incredibly rigorous training.

After having seen what these recruits go through, only to be followed by a life in one of the most perilous careers imaginable, I have even more respect for the USCG. The suspense is here in leaps and bounds, the camerawork is great, and the acting, even from Kutcher, is top-notch. There's even a bit of a romance thrown in on the side, so there's something here for everyone. My only gripe is that the plot is pretty unoriginal. Still, if you don't get goose bumps at least once while thinking about what these brave men and women do for a living, then you must not have a pulse.

Purdy's Rating: ★★★

The NIJCF: juvenile prison beyond Wood Youth Center

A DAY IN JAIL



Above: Hockney and security officer Anthony discuss prisoner's outdoor privileges. Far left: Bradley; prison rules require that we protect his identity. Left: Officer Anthony is the prison's safety coordinator and public information officer. Below: Students' sleep in eight dorm rooms, which house 12 students each night. Bottom: Hetrick is fitted with shackles as part of the tour. Shackled at ankle, waist, and hands, when being transferred, prisoners travel with several pounds of weight.

By Austin Hetrick and Ashley Hockney, photos by Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor and Writer

The 'Next Emeril'

The last choice Bradley made on his own cost him ten months of his life. Every day Bradley has to ask permission to urinate. Every day he showers with other young men, sleeps in a tiny overstuffed room with his cell-mates, tastes nothing but food others choose for him, sees daylight only at the prescribed hours. He says it's the little things that make prison so different from what life used to be. Behind locked doors, under the watchful gaze of corrections officers, barred from the rest of the world by razor wire, Brad has paid for his crimes. He is 17 years old, and Bradley is one of 94 inmates at the Northeast Indiana Juvenile Correctional Facility (NIJCF).

"I didn't think I'd be locked up. I thought if I got caught it would be a few weeks and I'd be out. But I've learned what it costs to be locked up."

Bradley has two weeks left "inside" and he's nervous about it. Behind his big black-rimmed glasses his eyes dart out from time to time and meet ours. He talks slowly, calmly, without stuttering. Brad's legs lazily sprawl in a wide arc over the carpet, black sneakers inching out from under his government-issue tan jumpsuit. He is tall, pale, and skinny; the boy who committed the crime and the man who has paid the price are now one. It's been a year since he was caught—just 176 days since his son Damien was born.

His "baby's momma," is now a sophomore at his former high school. She gave birth to his first child April 8. While Bradley was on kitchen duty cooking beans, a prison sergeant told him that Damien was born—he was a father. Bradley has seen his son, now six months old, when his girl visited him. He has pictures which he keeps with him.

"I'm a lil' afraid. I know that I have to take care of my family now."

Bradley arrived at the facility ten months ago, after he was charged with five counts of theft in his home town near Evansville, Indiana. Brad was a junior in high school when he was sent to the NIJCF. He would have graduated this spring with the class of 2007. Brad has his regrets, but he also sees the benefits of the time he's been incarcerated.

"If I was still out there, I'd be doing the same things I was, if not worse. This place has given me a chance to straighten out.

Brad is the most agitated when he talks about his brother; he wrings his hands, his thumbs roll over and over one another. While Brad has realized his own mistakes, he can't understand how his brother followed him down the same road. Brad's brother is 16, and doing time at a similar facility elsewhere in the state.

"[My brother] needs to stop what he's doing. He's seen what I've been through; he's come and visited me here. He says he doesn't like it, but he keeps doing what he's doing."

Brad says he has no choice except to be there for his brother now, and for his new family. Though Damien's mother is still in high school, once he gets out, Brad hopes he and his family can live a normal life.

"I'll live with my parents, get some money, and find a place of my own...an apartment, I hope. I'm going to try to have a family…it wasn't worth the jail time to lose that."

He's missed birthdays, both his own and his son's, Christmas, Thanksgiving—they've all been celebrated behind bars.

The first thing he'll do when he gets out is simple: "Eat." Pizza, he says, is his first choice. Food is what Brad hopes to specialize in someday—he wants to be a chef.

"[The guys] call me the 'next Emeril.' I've even got my own catch phrase: 'Tssss,' it's kind of a sizzle."

When his interview is done, the "next Emeril" heads quietly back to his cell, hands clasped tightly behind him in the regulation stance. His head is bent, the only sounds echoing down the hallway are Brad's shuffling, and the officer's footsteps behind him. Two more weeks.

> "...I thought if I got caught it would be a few weeks and I'd be out. But I've learned what it costs to be locked up."
> -Brad, prisoner at NIJCF

Welcome To "Kiddie Prison"

The NIJCF is located a eight miles north of downtown, off Goshen road. The facility, opened in 2000, is one of eight state-run juvenile institutions and houses 94 "students;" young men sent to NIJCF by a judge to complete a specific regimen of programs. Bradley, like 98.9% of the students, will leave the facility with his General Educational Development test (GED).

"It's not a real hard place to do time," Brad said. "You decide how long you stay."

The NIJCF is a medium security facility, barbed wire surrounds the courtyard walls, "unclimbable fencing" helps keep students inside. Officers carry pepper spray and cuffs, but no guns. "Segregation" cells allow for solitary confinement. Heavy doors are kept locked at all times, and students are kept under regular surveillance.

"The only difference between this facility and a maximum security one is that we don't have gun towers," safety coordinator and public information officer Eric Anthony said. "Our offenders can't do anything without asking or having a staff member unlock a door. They can't even go to the bathroom without asking."

Anthony defines the difference between NIJCF and Wood as the difference between "kiddie jail" and "kiddie prison."

The Youth Center is where minors go before they arrive at court, and they arrive at the NIJCF only after being adjudicated. (minors are not found guilty but instead once the evidence has been presented a judge adjudicates them, determining which programs they are to complete.)

Students' crimes vary from repeated truancy to felonies. The NIJCF does not house sexual offenders. A common misconception that many enter the facility with is the idea that they will walk free at 18. Anthony is quick to point out this error.

"By law, if you are adjudicated and refuse to do your program and your mom won't take you (into her custody), by law we can keep you till your 22nd birthday."

The NIJCF includes a cafeteria, classrooms, office space, a full sized gym, eight dorm rooms (12 beds per dorm), community bathrooms, counseling rooms, a library, and a computer lab. It is also an accredited program for education and includes a full high school curriculum, and special needs programming. It includes a staff of eight teachers, a full time nurse, seven Psychiattic Social Service specialists, a food staff of three, 32 youth service officers and eight youth service sergeants.

Anthony says that violence inside the facility is a regular occurrence. He says there is at least one fight each day, most resulting from insults and taunts. The police have only once been called to the facility to help guards.

Brad and the other students live a life similar to what they would experience in a prison for adults. Some luxuries they do enjoy. They are allowed collect calls each week, and can be visited on Saturdays and Sundays. Prisoners can also request overnight temporary leaves to help prepare them for life outside. Many of the students, like Brad, have families outside.

"A lot of kids here have kids," Brad said. "And inside, we call them 'my baby's mama,' not 'my girlfriend.'"

Brad misses his family, and he wishes he could have been there to see his son born.

"They miss those milestones in their lives, unless they have another son," Anthony said. "Students often have to miss the birth of their first child."

Less than 10 percent of students who are released reoffend. Brad says he won't be sent to prison again. He has no choice but to shape up.

"I've learned it's just not worth the jail time to steal something. I missed my son being born, and I want to be there for him, and my brother, later on."

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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

Friday, October 6, 2006

Into sectionals

See 4B for a special on the varsity volleyball team.

graphics larry buchanan

NORWELL (7-0) vs. HOMESTEAD (7-0)

NHC SHOWDOWN TONIGHT

Spartans steamrolling through NHC, win tonight would put stranglehold on conference title

By Taylor Harruff
Writer

Already seven games into the season, the varsity football team has proven their ranking as number one in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC). The team is on their way to a promising conference championship, as long as they can successfully defeat the similarly undefeated Norwell Knights.

"We have been all around successful so far in the season," starting quarterback Jordan Wise (12) said. "Norwell looks to be our biggest threat."

The team has been practicing since the end of the previous school year. Most would look forward to worry-free days lounging by the pool, and waking up mid-day, however the members of the varsity team, were up bright and early for their intense two-a-day summer practices.

"The practices take up a good part of the summer, but they definitely have prepared us well and established a good team," wide receiver Ryan Wright (11) said.

Those extreme practices have paid off, leaving the team with an undefeated record of 7-0 overall, 5-0 in conference.

"It's a great feeling knowing you are undefeated this far into the season," Wise said.

The season kicked off with an impressive win over Huntington North. The success continued with a defeat against Warsaw, who in previous years has proved challenging for the team. However, the Spartans seemingly walked away with a 28-6 victory.

"The win against Warsaw was great for the attitude of the team", Wright said. "It really got the season started.

Similarly, games against DeKalb and Carroll were a walk in the park for the team, who is averaging over 33 points per game.

"This far into conference play we really haven't [had] any teams that were a huge challenge for us," linebacker Kyle Sherer (12) said. "Norwell is our biggest threat now."

Homestead was preparing for a reasonable challenge against the Barons.

"We had been preparing for a hard game against DeKalb," Wise said.

The Spartans scored early and often, en route to a 34-11 victory. Wise and Wright both threw touchdown passes to Desmond Lewis (12), and Charles Seals (11). Homestead had a total of 12 first downs, 312 total yards, 237 of which were rushing, and 75 passing yards. Kevin Bultemeier (12), Sherer, and Nathan Murphy (12) all had one sack a piece. Kyle also walked away with 16 tackles. Bultemeier had 13, and Wise made ten. The four seniors help anchor a defense that is allowing only 7.6 points per game.

"The DeKalb victory was huge," Sherer said. "Our defense and offense all stepped it up."

The next week the team dominated the Carroll Chargers 36-3.

"The defense was able to hold them long enough to where they could only make a field goal the entire game," Sherer said.

The defensive line made a huge play when they stopped the Charger's running back in the end zone to put the Spartans up 2-0 less than three minutes into the game. Offensively, Wise threw for a total of 256 yards, and a total of four touchdown passes, two of which were to Lewis and Wright.

"Our offense really clicked that night", Wise said. "We all played really well together."

Norwell is also undefeated, and looks to be the determining factor in a conference championship.

"This is the one team that could really beat us," Bultemeier said. "We just have to give all we have in order to win."

While the Spartans have held opponents to a touchdown a game, Norwell has limited opponents to about 6.6 points per game, and their offense is full of talented athletes. They have averaged over 50 points per game, far and away the best in the conference.

"They tend to equally throw and pass the ball throughout the game," Wise said. "We just have to stay on top of our game and play the way we have been.

The atmosphere should prove to be memorable, and the Spartans are hoping they can put a stranglehold on a conference championship.

Jordan Wise (12) dives for the end zone during a game against East Noble. The Spartans are undefeated on the season at 7-0, 5-0 in the conference.

The X Factor: What makes this team so good?

By Chris Ray
Writer

Great: "Superior in quality or character." Many people know the Varsity football team is good, but the question is: Are they great? What makes this 7-0 team different than past Spartan gridirón teams?

Perhaps it is the team's offense. Quarterback Jordan Wise is on track to shatter his numbers from last year. Currently, he has passed for 1099 yards and 12 touchdowns with a 63% completion rate. He has only thrown two interceptions while last year he threw nine overall. Adding to his stellar numbers, he has rushed for six touchdowns. The Spartans have many threats at wide receiver including Desmond Lewis (12), Ryan Wright (11), and Patrick Mueller (12). Lewis, the leading receiver, doesn't have the numbers that last year's leading receiver, Trevor Terrell, had, but has had just the same contributions. He has caught five touchdown passes from Wise. Adding to the team's all-around offensive attack, Charles Seals (11) and Ross Heckber (11) give the team a rushing attack. Seals has scored a touchdown every game and Heckber is capable of breaking the big play every time he gets the ball. The team averages 33.7 points per game this year compared to 28.8 in 2005.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Ryan Cicero (12) attempts a field goal in a game.

Maybe it is the Spartan defense. They have held teams to only eight points a game this season instead of 17.7 in 2005. Nathan Murphy (12) and Brian Laipple (12) have six sacks and three sacks respectively. The team does not have many interceptions this year, but that could be contributed to the change in the defensive scheme. In 2005, the Spartans ran a 5-2 scheme, meaning there are five defensive linemen and two linebackers. This year, Head Coach Chad Zolman changed the scheme to a 3-4. The defense also prides itself on its ability to stop the big play, or those plays that about 30 yards of more. The team has given up only two such plays this season. When a team is able to limit the opponent's chances, it can increase the chances of victory dramatically.

"Every year, the coaching staff gets together to look at what we can change on offense and defense to put us in the best position to succeed. We changed the defensive scheme in order to fit our personnel, but we still have had some problems in the switch," Zolman said.

However, many believe that the real reason the football team has had such success is because of the amazing teamwork they have had. They play as a single unity rather than a bunch of individuals.

"Every person isn't out on the field for themselves. The mindset is 'What can I do for the team,' not 'What can I do for myself.' In past years, the stats were the main concern, but this year that is not the case," defensive lineman Brian Laipple said.

> "I'm a real demanding person, and I am not satisfied at all."
>
> -Brian Laipple, Tackle

Before the season started, the seniors of the football team made up goals that they wanted to fulfill in the season.

"We wanted to win conference outright, get out of sectionals, and get to state," Lewis said.

Besides the main goal of reaching state, the team set smaller goals because they needed something to build on, Laipple said. The undefeated Spartans have so far reached their goals, but some are not totally satisfied.

"We have done well, but I still think we can do better. We didn't play well in the first half against Columbia City," Lewis said.

Brian Laipple feels the same way.

"I'm a real demanding person, and I am not satisfied at all. There is still a bunch of things we need to accomplish. Even though we are undefeated, we need to play better against upcoming opponents."

Their next game is against the undefeated Norwell Knights, who are tied with the Spartans for first in the NHC conference.

"The Norwell game is huge. The winner will be crowned conference champions, and that was one of our goals. This game could make or break our season," quarterback Jordan Wise said.

If the Spartans do pull off the victory against the Knights, it could catapult them from the 'Good' label to the 'Great' label.

"Grant Laird (12) told Coach [Zolman] a quote that really stuck in my mind. 'Good is the enemy of Great.' This quote is true because a good team can get complacent, and right now we are a good team, but we want to be great," Laipple said.

Tonight will be a game where the Spartans can show the city and the state that they are better than just good. Tonight will be the game that could show the state that this team is ready for a "Run to the Dome" and possibly a state title.

RIVALRIES FLAIR

Kegan Harkenrider (11)

Game-day vandalism boils over Canterbury rivalry, sectional draw play begins

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

Six days. Three games. Three state-ranked teams. The boys' varsity soccer team encountered a tough stretch in their season beginning on September 18. Following weeks of inconsistency, the team knew that this was when they really needed to step it up and play to their potential.

On Monday, the boys played Carroll in a pivotal conference match-up. Carroll was unbeaten in conference, 10-1 overall, and ranked #13 in the state. Coming in as the underdogs, the team still felt confident in their ability. An early goal by Brent Helton (10) and two late second-half goals by Mike Cobb (12) propelled the Spartans to a upset victory to stay alive in the chase for the conference championship.

On Thursday, September 21, the team played at Bishop Dwenger, who was an Honorable Mention in the state rankings coming into the game. The Spartans returned to their inconsistent play and were down 6 – 1 at the half. However, the team stepped it up in the second half but still fell 7 – 4 . Cobb had four goals. This was not the result that the team had hoped for heading into their biggest regular season game on Saturday against Canterbury.

Any follower of high school soccer around the state knows of the long history of animosity between the two schools, a rivalry that is renowned as one of the biggest rivalries in the state. Something that added even more flare to the rivalry this year was the vandalism of the soccer field by Canterbury students. About mid-afternoon, the day of the game, the team discovered that "Go Cavs!" had been spray painted on the field, and the Canterbury logo was in the center circle.

The team came out strong, propelled by the support of a packed house, including a massive student section with signs, painters, and noise makers.

"The atmosphere was amazing," Grant Welter (10) said. "It was great to see so many people at the game. The two years I have been here, that is the loudest it has ever been."

After several early chances, the Spartans were able to get on the board first. Goalie Tyler Lambert (12) punted a ball to Cobb who slipped the ball past the Cavalier defenders for Helton who put it away for the score. The Spartans were able to keep the pressure up and had several shots go just wide by Kegan Harkenrider (9), Tom Gallmeyer (10), and Cobb.

The team entered the half with a disappointing 1 – 0 lead considering the amount of chances they had. The second half continued with the same fast pace of the first half. In the middle of the second half, Canterbury was able to slip through and get the equalizer off of a quick restart. As the wind and rain picked up, the crowd and players would not give up.

Homestead continued to pound on the door with several shots that nearly went in. Late in the game, Canterbury got through on a break away but Lambert came up with a crucial save that preserved the tie for the Spartans. While the team walked away with a tie against the #16 team in state, the team was left with a sour taste in their mouth because they knew they outplayed the Cavaliers and should have finished more of their chances on goal.

"It was a loss. A tie to a team that is over-rated, unskillful, arrogant, and obnoxious will always count as a loss," Andy Rosenblatt (12) said, who played on Senior Night for the first time since tearing his ACL prior to the start of the season.

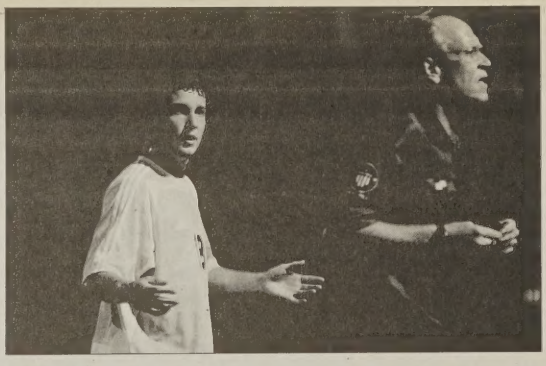
"It wasn't a complete success. We had so many chances and dominated the game, so we should have won," Lambert said.

The Spartans returned to action on Monday in another important conference game at Norwell. Battling several unfavorable circumstances, the Spartans got a first half goal by Cobb. The knights tied the game up in the second half, but a late goal by Welter pushed the Spartans to the win. Dave Weiss (12) also added an insurance goal in the closing minutes.

After receiving the sectional draw, the team is confident that they can make a run deep into the state tournament. They opened up against Columbia City on October 5, at Homestead. Due to press deadlines, results of the game were not available. The winner of this game will play the winner of Wayne and Huntington North for the sectional championship on October 7, at Homestead.

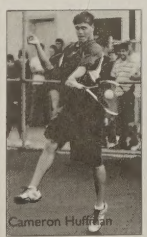
"With the new sectional and regional lineups and the talent of this young team, I would be very disappointed if we did not make it out of regionals," Welter said.

"I expect nothing less than getting to state," Rosenblatt said. "We expect perfection."



Tennis wins 28th sectional in a row

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer


Cameron Huffman

It's always a big deal when any Homestead sport competes against Canterbury. No matter the magnitude of the event, there is always extra incentive for the team when they face off against the private school from across town. No exception to this rivalry was the boys sectional tennis final held last Friday at Homestead.

Homestead came into the match as the underdog, going up against the higher ranked Canterbury, putting their streak of 27 straight sectional titles on the line. The rivalry was enhanced by off-court issues between Homestead and Canterbury players at an earlier match, which led to the suspension of one match for a Homestead player.

Fans from each of the schools turned out in droves to witness the matches, and those fans saw an impressive win for the Spartans. Although the final score in matches was a close 3-2, the individual match were not as close as the final score may indicate. Wins by the number two singles player Greg Dillon (12), the number one doubles team of Josh Rifkin (12) and Danny Reecer (11), and the number two doubles team of Josh Butcher (12) and Geoff Norton (11) assured that the streak would remain intact.

"We didn't want to lose that match; we wanted to keep the tradition going," Rifkin said.

In the number two singles match, Dillon was dominant, defeating his counterpart from Canterbury 6-1 6-1.

"At first it was difficult," Dillon said. "But then I got into a groove and just played my game. I didn't let him use all of his weapons, but I was able to use my forehand and some of my other weapons. The rivalry helped me play better because there was so much energy."

The pivotal match was perhaps number one doubles. With one singles and three singles struggling, the one doubles team of Rifkin and Reecer had to win their match in order to keep Canterbury from gaining the three match wins necessary for a victory. However, after getting off to a shaky start in the first set, the team found a groove and maintained their high level of play for the rest of the match, winning 6-4 6-0.

"I think the pressure and nerves were bothering us early," Rifkin said. "We just had to get over the nerves and play our game. We knew that our match had to be a win because one and three singles were going to be tough and we needed the point just in case."

The two doubles match was the first match to be concluded with Butcher and Norton rolling to an easy 6-2 6-1 victory. The team has played well together all year and was able to post an early point in the sectional.

"We wanted to make sure that we got up on them quickly," Norton said. "We had to be sure we won because we really needed our point."

The team's next postseason hurdle was a round one regional matchup with Carroll. In a dominant performance on Tuesday, the boys swept all five matches. Confident after this performance, a match with South Side is now all that separates the team from yet another regional championship.As their recent dominant performance shows, the team is playing inspired tennis as they look to advance further in post-season play.

Girl's golf misses cut to state finals by one place

By Nick Arnold
Writer

The girls golf team has had its fair share of near misses. In the past five years, the team has gone to state twice. In the other three, they have missed going to state by one place every time. When the girls finished fourth this year, they were accustomed to the disappointment.

"We are obviously disappointed," Coach Michelle Swing said. "This is my fifth year coaching and my third time missing state by one place. We definitely had the talent to take us to state. We didn't play bad in regionals. Other teams just played that well."

Even in the wake of their defeat, they are still pleased with many of their accomplishments during the season.

Number one golfer Jessica Sciorintino (12) fueled the team's 10-1 record during the regular season. She was named Prep Sports Athlete of the Week for her performance. Sciorintino moved up from the number two spot last year and assumed a leadership role on the team. She was joined by Amy Heath (12), Kelly Dickmeyer (11), Lauren Wesner (10), and Kelsey Lamphier (12), all returning players from the previous season.

With their only loss coming to DeKalb, the girls were looking forward to the postseason. Battling rain throughout most of the season, they were confident in their ability to play well.

"Most of the time weather is not an issue in fall golf," Swing said. "This year was different. We were battling rain during almost half of the matches."

Yet, the team enjoyed most of their season at their new home golf course, Orchard Ridge Country Club.

"The staff at Orchard Ridge was absolutely wonderful," Swing said. "The course is different than our previous one, Chestnut Hills. Orchard Ridge requires better shot making around the green, rather than off the tee."

Kelly Dickmeyer was enthusiastic about having the opportunity to play at a course of Orchard Ridge's caliber. Being a member at Orchard Ridge allowed her to know the course first-hand before the season started.

"Not making state really disappointed us," Dickmeyer said. "But we had a lot of fun during the season."

The team was able to draw on experience from last season, along with the opportunity to practice during the summer. Many girls on the team belong to various golf courses around the area.

"We have girls who are members at Sycamore Hills, Chestnut Hills, Orchard Ridge, and other courses," Swing said. "A lot of the girls play in tournaments throughout the summer to keep their games sharp."

In addition to having good facilities for practice, the team can look to their coach for instruction. Swing played golf at the University of Indianapolis, where she was an All-American and placed fourth in the NCAA Division II National Golf Championship.

One would not be surprised to find that Swing, with a last name that fits her profession, makes a living through the game of golf.

"Golf has been a passion that I have followed my entire life," Swing said. "It is something that I really enjoying doing."

Swing spends her summers instructing children at the Lifetime Sports Academy at McMillen Park. Now that the golf season is over, she will substitute teach at Homestead and other schools in the district.

Like the rest of the team, she will wait for next August and the start of the 2007 season, optimistic about what the future might hold.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FRESHMEN FOOTBALL 3-0 IN CONFERENCE

Currently the freshman football team is undefeated with a record of 3-0 in their conference. Their upcoming game is against DeKalb, last year's conference champs. The last game they played was against Bellmont where they won by a score of 19-17. Going into the conference championship, the boys are considered the top team with a 4-1 record while DeKalb closely follows with a 3-1 record.

J.V. FOOTBALL OFF TO 5-1 OVERALL RECORD

The J.V. boys football team has a record of 5-1 thus far into their season. Their record in the conference is 3-1. Their last game against DeKalb was a successful 46-20 win. Some more upcoming games include Carroll, Norwell, and New Haven. They look to be a top contender for the conference title.

J.V. GIRLS SOCCER SHUTS OUT NORWELL

So far into their season, the J.V. girls soccer team has a record of 10-2. Their last game they played was against Norwell where they scored three points to shut out the Knights. This week the girls play Bishop Luers and New Haven. The girls are the favorite to win both games. They have had no losses in their conference thus far.

J.V. BOYS SOCCER ENDS WITH 3-1 WIN

The J.V. Boys soccer team finished up their season with a victory against New Haven this past Monday. They scored 3 points on New Haven leaving the final score 3-1. The game was shortened however because of the weather.

BOWLING

Bowling tryouts were held last Monday, September 28.

J.V. CROSS COUNTRY

The J.V. cross country teams ended their seasons Thursday at the Reserve Invitational at Bellmont. Last Saturday, September 30, the teams ran in the New Haven Classic at The Plex, near the IPFW campus.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Vanessa Herman (11) fends off a defender in a game against Northrop, played September 14 at home. The team's sectional run begins with North Side.

Girls soccer team has mixed feelings over sectional draw

First-round match against North Side on October 10

By Kara Busse
Writer

The girls varsity soccer team played their last three games of the season during the past two weeks. Their games included fairly easy competition against Norwell, Snider, Bishop Luers, and New Haven. The 2006 sectional draw has also been released, with the team squaring off against North Side in the first round and Bishop Luers in the second.

The score of 6-0 against their recent opponent Snider was particularly surprising to most. The girls came into the game feeling convinced they would get the better of the Panthers, but the six-goal margin in this year's contest was surprising considering last year's two-goal margin.

"We played very well together that Saturday and dominated the other team," Erin Lessing (11) said.

With the score 2-0 at half, the Lady Spartans came back and scored four more goals to end the game.

On Monday, September 25, the girls played the Norwell Knights, blowing out the conference rivals 9-0.

The Saturday after the team competed against Bishop Luers at the Sport Club. The game was cut short by lightning, allowing the Lady Spartans to win 5-1.

The girls then finished off the season against New Haven on Senior Night, October 3. Following the recognition of seniors Leslie Straessle, Rachel Schenk, Kelsey Davis, Vanessa Herman, and Nadia Ghaffarian, the girls took total control of the field and beat the Bulldogs 11-0.

The girls have mixed feelings following the release of the sectional draw on Monday, September 25. The team opens with their first game against North Side on Tuesday, October 10, at 7 p.m., a game that most members of the squad see to be a fairly easy contest.

If they can get past North Side, the team then plays their well-known rivals, the Bishop Dwenger Saints on Thursday, October 13, at 7 p.m. The previous match against the Saints saw the Lady Spartans fall 2-1. The penalty kick Bishop Dwenger converted determined the game's final outcome. If the girls, sure to be underdogs, come out on top, they then play Canterbury on Saturday, October 14, who they previously beat 3-1 in a demanding match early in the season.

"I like the first game because I'm pretty sure it'll be easy, but then we play Dwenger, which will be difficult and nice at the same time. This time we'll actually win or lose, hopefully win, and not have the game's score depend on a p.k.," Nicole Musi (9) said.

"I like the draw, and then again I don't. We're all pretty much positive we'll win our first game, so that's a good thing. We know the others will be tough, but I think we can pull through it and so does the rest of the team," Abby Paul (10) said.

Cross country teams weather stormy conditions at NHC; sectionals Saturday

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Lightning forced both the boys and girls varsity cross country teams back to the bus twice at the NHC meet held on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 before it was finally allowed to run without further interruption. Both teams had been struggling coming into the meet, failing to meet expectations at the September 30 New Haven Classic.

The wet and soggy conditions at the Classic proved to be a problem for the teams, who both placed seventh at the conference tune-up.

The boys team was in good shape at the mile mark, with only 30 seconds separating first and seventh place. But some members of the team fell off the pace towards the end of the race, costing the team valuable points.

The girls team had been lead all year by Meghan Terrell (10). But ever since a freak car accident several weeks ago kept her out of one meet, Meghan had been struggling. At New Haven, she kept up for the first mile but eventually would be unable to sustain the pace, falling to seventh on the team for the Spartans. The teams were hopeful they would be able to correct the issues by the NHC meet.

The conference meet was held at the same course as the New Haven Classic, near The Plex and the IPFW campus. Weather was inclement all night, and lightning strikes forced both teams back to the bus twice.

"The weather definitely played with our minds," Captain Andrew Schroeder (12) said.

Eventually, the meet began, but rain and wind were still a factor throughout the night.

Unsure of what to expect, the boys team was lead by Schroeder, who placed sixteenth, good enough for an NHC Honorable Mention award. Brian Graham (11) and Donny Heath (09) followed close behind Schroeder, both also receiving Honorable Mentions. The boys team ran well enough to place fourth overall.

"Given the conditions, the team did exceptional. Based on the young team we have, we were where we should have been…This is definitely a team that will be worth watching next year. It's a shame I won't be here to be a part of it," Schroeder said.

"The underclassmen have a good-looking future," Danny White (12) said.

The girls were led by Terrell, who was able to rebound from a disappointing run at New Haven. She placed sixteenth, good enough for Honorable Mention in the conference. Other Honorable Mentions for the girls were Carolyn Mutton (09) and Erin Blum (12). The girls were able to run as a team rather than as individuals, and the result was a third place finish.

"I think we stepped it up and ran as a team, and that was what helped us to a third place finish. Even though the weather was really bad we stuck it out and ran well," Terrell said.

Terrell thinks they have a shot at state.

"I think if we continue to improve, which we are, then we have a chance [to go to state] if we are mentally prepared...," Terrell said.

"My season has not gone exactly the way I wanted, but we have tough runners that allow us to compete," Amanda Kingsbery (12) said.

Sectionals will be held tomorrow at IPFW.

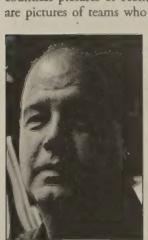
PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Boys cross country placed fourth at conference

Ankenbruck will step down following 2006-07 school year

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

As one walks down the long corridor heading to the athletic office, it is impossible to miss the countless pictures of Homestead athletes. There are pictures of teams who won sectional championships and individuals who placed at state. Notice how many of those pictures were taken in the last 17 years.



These pictures represent Homestead athletics under the direction of John Ankenbruck.

But now, after 17 years of forming countless relationships with students and coaches, Ankenbruck is stepping down from his position of Athletic Director.

"I just really felt like this was the right thing to do," Ankenbruck said. "I wanted to go out with the things going well. I wanted to leave with the athletic department in strong shape financially. The coaching staffs are all solid, and the programs are in good shape."

> *I wanted to leave with the athletic department in strong shape financially...I'm really going to miss the interaction with the kids."*
>
> **John Ankenbruck**
> Athletic Director

Ankenbruck started in education 33 years ago. For his first 14 years, Ankenbruck was a teacher and coach in Fort Wayne Community Schools, spending ten years from 1978-1988 at North Side. The past 19 years of his career in education have been spent at Homestead, with the past 17 as Athletic Director.

Ankenbruck's first two years at Homestead were spent as an administrative assistant and the Assistant Athletic Director before becoming A.D. 17 years ago.

For the last 17 years, he has led Homestead athletics to numerous accolades, including a football state finals appearance in the late 1990's and, recently, a state finals runner-up award for varsity girls soccer. Ankenbruck has also seen the boys tennis team advance past sectionals every year he has held the position. And just in the last couple of years, he has watched Katie Veith (12) and Hunter Hall (12) blossom into two of the most talented pole vaulters in all of track and field, Veith being the number one vaulter in the entire country.

"I have spent 33 years in education which is really a long time," Ankenbruck said. "This position is so time consuming and I just felt like it was time to leave."

Ankenbruck now plans to enjoy his retirement, possibly pursuing other opportunities in the business world. Ankenbruck will also use the time to enjoy the company of his family.

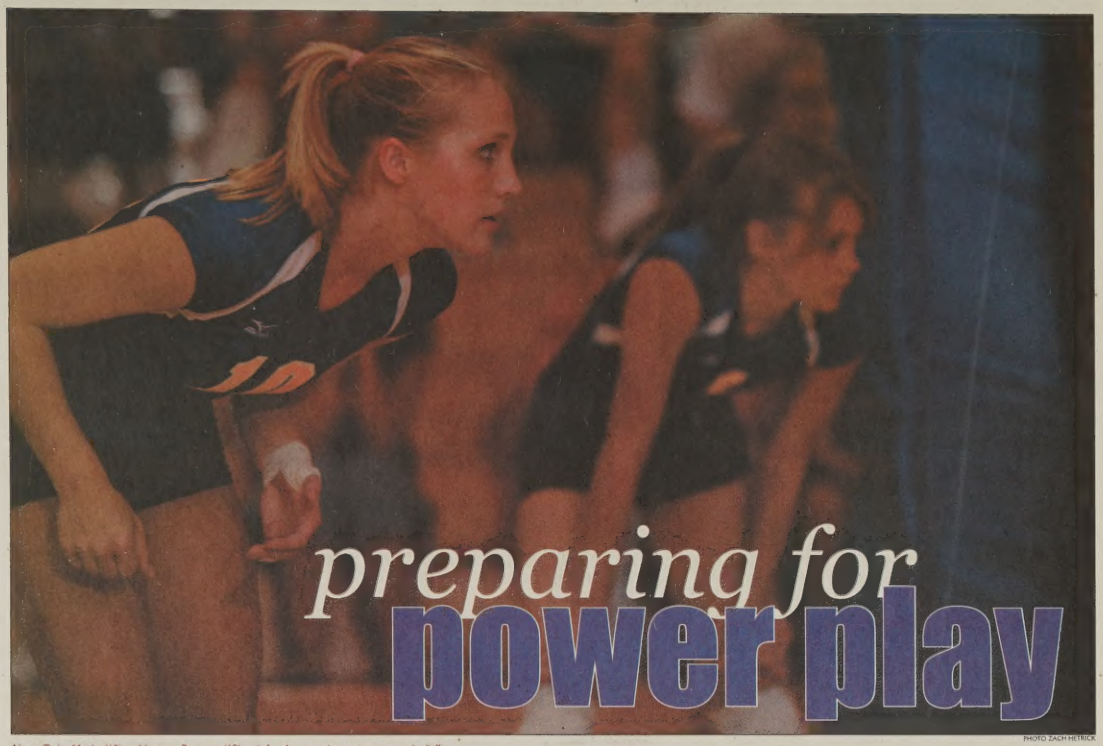
"I wanted to retire while I am still young enough to enjoy my time in retirement," Ankenbruck said. "I may pursue other opportunities, maybe in the business world. This also frees up some time to spend more quality time with my wife, kids and grandchild."

Throughout his career, Ankenbruck has interacted with countless numbers of student-athletes. Additionally, Ankenbruck has developed relationships with coaches and other individuals associated with high school athletics, many of whom have become close friends.

It is this interaction with students, coaches, and other administrators that Ankenbruck says he will miss most about his position.

"I'm really going to miss the interaction with the kids," Ankenbruck said. "I'm going to miss seeing kids enjoying successes and having fun. The interaction with coaches has also been a very positive experience for me; we have had a lot of successes."

As of now, SACS has no plan to name Ankenbruck's replacement, though he suspects the process will begin fairly soon.



preparing for power play

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Above: Taylar Meeks (10) and Jacquee Bowman (10) wait for the opposing team to serve the ball.

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

Sectional play for the varsity volleyball team is only a week away. But before they begin, the team has several conference matches remaining on their schedule, most notably an away match on October 3 against Bellmont, another away match on October 5 against Norwell, and they will have a home game against South Side next Tuesday, October 10. This being the final year of volleyball for six seniors, they see these final weeks as very important.

"This season has been really short, seems like it is going by really fast, but I really hope we win sectionals." Melissa Gillum (12) said.

This is the time for seniors to make their marks and legacies as a varsity volleyball player. Whether she is remembered for always trying her hardest, being a good leader, or making key shots when it counts, each senior no doubt wants to leave a mark on the program. Gillum certainly agrees that she wants to leave a legacy behind her.

"I would want my legacy to be that I tried hard, and that I did all I could for the team." Gillum said.

With sectionals in only one more week, the final games of this volleyball season are upon the team. And though victories in those matches would be ideal, the seniors know the team must be prepared for sectional play no matter what the results. Wins in the regular season are nice, but a loss in the post-season means the end of a season. They are therefore trying to focus on winning in sectionals against tough opponents like Snider, who the team drew as their sectional opponent.

"I want our team to win sectionals…and play well as a team. Even if we don't win, if we played really well and we are proud of the way we played, then I would happy with that." Danielle Gauthier (12), varsity volleyball captain, said.

From the start of practices to now, the varsity team has improved in many areas. For example, many of the offensive skills have been improved through hard practice. These include "passing and hitting" Becky Price (11) said. Coach Lydia Gard said that another area of improvement was the team's "blocking" and "net-playing" ability. Through hard work, Lydia pointed out, the team has improved dramatically on both offense and defense, leaving them in pretty good shape for sectionals.

Although the team has worked hard to create points of strength there are also areas that need improvement. Price, Gauthier, and Gillum all believe that the team needs to improve in the same area.

"We need to improve our communication and working as a team," Becky Price said.

The varsity team faces a major challenge at sectionals playing their major conference rival the Snider Panthers. Snider's varsity volleyball team's current conference record is 14-7. Winning against Snider would require the team to play well in nearly every area. Many of the players acknowledge they will need to string together several of their best matches in the next several weeks to advance past sectionals. But first, the team is set on finding a way to beat Snider.

" We have the talent [to play with Snider]. We just need to keep up the intensity and communicate very well on the court," Gauthier said.

SENIORS REFLECT ON THEIR FAVORITE VOLLEYBALL MEMORIES

"BEATING SNIDER AND MAKING IT TO THE SECTIONAL FINALS LAST YEAR." -annahuguenard

"BEATING CONCORDIA AND THE SNIDER GAME SINCE IT WAS THE MOST INTENSE GAME I'VE EVER BEEN IN." -laurencleaver

"THE BUS RIDES HOME IN PAST SEASONS AND BEATING SNIDER." -chelseysholi

"BEATING SNIDER BECAUSE WE LOST THE FIRST GAME AND WE CAME BACK DURING THE FIFTH GAME AND SCORED FIVE POINTS IN A ROW." -mollyrodenbeck

"GETTING LOST ON THE WAY TO THE PENN TOURNEY FOR TWO HOURS AND MAKING A 'LOST' MOVIE WITH MOLLY." -daniellegauthier

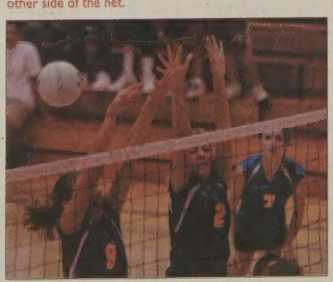
"BEATING SNIDER AND BEATING CONCORDIA." -katibeutler

"FATTY RIDES AND ERICA McMAHON'S CAR LAST YEAR BECAUSE WE CRAMMED TEN PEOPLE INTO HER TWO-DOOR." -melissagillum

LITTLE KNOWN VOLLEYBALL FACTS

- They have had a total of 28 practices so far this year.
- Coach Lydia Gard plays with the team during their practices.
- The posters in the gym were painted by the team at the beginning of the season.
- The team uses a different hand signal for each play during games.
- During warm-up, the team sings "Going to Kentucky" to get pumped up.
- At the end of each practice, Varsity scrimmages J.V. for 30 minutes.
- They are given two jerseys: one white (away) and one blue (home).
- Most of the volleyball injuries are related to the ankles and shoulders.
- The average price for spandex shorts is $22.83.

Above: Melissa Gillum (12) reaches up, knocking the ball to the New Haven team while Danielle Gauthier (12) and Courtney Mrowcinski (10) stand ready to back her up. Left: The team circles up to throw their hands up after winning a point. Below: Kati Beutler (12) and Courtney Mrowcinski (10) jump up to set the ball back to the other side of the net.



issue 4 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

the Spartana

fallsportraits

Photographers Zach Hetrick and Susie Reecer capture fall sport athletes in their elements. see page 8A.

Friday, October 20, 2006

Bringing home the hardware

The boys varsity tennis team and Cameron Huffman (12) took home the second place trophy following the state finals. see page 4B

In loving memory of

naseemrachdi

1991-2006

His friends will tell you that Naseem Rachdi wouldn't want tears to commemorate him, he'd want a party. A party would match Rachdi's life better than grief. He is remembered for his frenetic pace, his "gangsta" alter-ego, and his zest and enthusiasm for life. And so, here, in this space, we offer to him a party of sorts: a celebration of memory in the words of his friends, and his teacher--in the words of those who knew him best.

For two straight years Rachdi spent the minutes before school hanging out, talking "gangsta," or having coffee with his friend, French teacher Michel Holland.

Over the summer Rachdi sent his former teacher an E-mail with a presentation he'd found about the Lebanon-Israeli war. The email read:

"H-Dawg, I know that we talked a lot about man's inhumanity to man during your class and although I don't know your politics, I think you might be interested in these pictures. It is so sad what we [do] to each other."

Holland was touched that Naseem had remembered him after graduating Summit.

"For Naseem, life was an adventure to be lived, not something to be studied or examined in an academic way. People were what mattered, and he took care to nurture his friends, sometimes with wisdom beyond his years...He made everything he touched crazy fun, and he expressed his convictions so passionately."

Naseem's friends remember moments when he was happiest. Freshman Loren Duff remembers an Air Soft battle he and Naseem had with friends one Memorial Day. In the middle of the battle, with bb's flying everywhere Naseem's gun broke and he was hit. It was a hot day, and they called it quits.

"We were going down the steps to the pool outside, then my brother and my friend jumped out of nowhere and had these sling shots that my dad bought for them. They started shooting rocks at us and one went right past my head. I was really angry and I said, 'That rock almost hit me!' Then I turned around and Naseem said, 'It did hit me.' It was funny because it didn't hurt him and he was so cool about it. But it left a huge welt right on the top of his head—the thing kept growing and growing and growing."

The next day at school his classmates joked about the "horn" Naseem had on his head, but Rachdi just brushed it off and joked about it himself.

"When he first came to Summit he was so outgoing that most people knew him as 'Naseem, the kid who talks a lot in that cool, Moroccan accent,'" freshman Jessica Nguyen said.

Nguyen, who ran track with Rachdi, also remembers him for the moments after a varsity race.

"He ran in the varsity 4x100 relay but I liked it the most when he ran the 800 meter race because, when he won, you could tell he put a great deal of effort into it. I loved it when he would be listening to his MP3 player and start singing out loud. I could be feeling like the loneliest person in the world and all he would have to do is come over and start talking to me; I would entirely forget that I was sad."

Naseem Rachdi was a Ludacris fan, a runner, a justice-seeker, a joker, a passionate, crazy, enthusiastic young man. He was an adventurer, who left his mark on many. Whether messing around with his friends, racing along on a track, or sharing his views, he was passionate. He lived that way, and he will be remembered for it.

NASEEM'S FRIENDS, TEACHERS EXPRESS FINAL THOUGHTS PAGE 2A

Lunch room may expand

Board considers 96-seat expansion, extra lines

By Laura Summers
Writer

The lunch bell, as every C lunch-eater knows, rings at precisely 12:20 each day. Seconds later the chaotic charge downstairs and through the hallways begins. At the sound of the bell three times each day—the race begins—700 pairs of shoes begin the trek toward the lunch lines, crowding a cafeteria designed for far less students.

School Board members discussed possible expansion of the cafeteria area at the Board's Oct. 3 meeting. The expansion was placed on the board's agenda following numerous complaints from teachers, cafeteria aids and students.

"Based on the reports I am getting, it seems necessary to address the crowded situation in the cafeteria and serving area," Jim Coplen, district business manager, said. "[The problem] will only be worse as the enrollments continue to increase."

The planned cafeteria expansion, if approved, would take over Mr. Fisher's English classroom,

see LUNCH on page 3A

PHOTO COURTESY MOAKE PARK

Academy lands Gates' million dollar grant

Grant towards 'smaller learning communities'

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

District officials have announced that the school system is the recipient of an Implementation Grant worth $927,000. Funds will be used to promote smaller learning communities within the school. The grant calls for the hiring of two additional staff members and also provides additional funds for training and professional development.

Four years ago, Bill Gates started a foundation that provided money to the federal government for Implementation grants. The grant supports

see GRANT on page 3A

BAND PERFORMS AT STATE SATURDAY

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

By late tomorrow night the joyous screams of at least one band will be filling the RCA Dome. For the nearly 300 members of the Spartan Alliance Band, they hope those screams will be theirs. If the band can pull off an upset victory at the ISSMA State Finals Saturday, they'll vindicate a decade of close calls and yet another year of grueling practice.

The state finals will be held at the RCA Dome in downtown Indianapolis. The Spartans perform at 8:32 p.m. After a busy and successful competition season, band members are optimistic about Saturday night's show.

"Barber and Watkins are in the works to make our state performance something that people will never forget," Dylan Rudy (12), who is in percus

see BAND on page 3A

BRIEFS

STUDENTS TAKE PSAT

Sophomores and juniors took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), Wednesday. This test, Sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, will give eligible juniors the chance to become one of the nation's 16,000 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. From there, juniors, who are eligible and proceed in the competition, will be awarded National Merit Scholarships. Sophomores and juniors will be able to see their results in mid-December.

NEW DRIVER CONTROL CLINIC

New driver control classes were held at Homestead, in the community room, Thursday, Oct. 12th. Classes are sponsored by Parkview hospital in partnership with News Channel 15 (WANE-TV). The clinic focuses on defensive driving skills and hands on accident avoidance techniques. After completing the class, students can schedule a four-hour behind-the-wheel lesson. Students can sign up for future clinics by calling 1-800-862-3277 or online at carcontrol.com.

NEW TRAILS TO BE ADDED ON COVINGTON ROAD

Construction is set to begin in 2007 on an additional three to four mile-long trail on Covington Road between West Hamilton Road and Interstate 69. A $987,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation was presented to the Aboite New Trails group to assemble the newest portion. The money was added to by Mayor Graham Richards and other donors with an additional collective $250,000. With the addition of the Covington Road Trails, the Aboite New Trails will span over an interconnected 10.5 miles.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, Tribute : Naseem Rachdi's friends say goodbye
PAGE 3A, News: Front page news continued
PAGE 4A, Opinions/Editorial : Fuzzy Edges: Hetrick reflects on a lifetime on the highway
PAGE 5A, Life: Election preview special, a closer look at the candidates
PAGE 6A, Life: Brad Lufkin takes a look at the Killer's newest offering
PAGE 7A, Life: Movie review by Chris Purdy: "The Departed"
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: Sportraits, the best athletes in their natural elements, through the lens
PAGE 1B, Sports: Cross Country heads to semi-state
PAGE 2B, Sports: Football team heads into sectional play against Goshen
PAGE 3B, Sports: Girl's volleyball team heads into their sectional rivalry with Snider
PAGE 4B, Sports: Varsity boys tennis team takes second place at state competition

In loving memory of

naseemrachdi

1991-2006

"I've heard it said
That people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today
Because I knew you"
-Michel Holland, sung at Naseem's remembrance, from 'Wicked'

"Today a life has passed away
He's in a better place they say.
His life will be remembered forevermore
But this loss makes our hearts so sore.

Some might think he's not here
But the angels will keep him near
Make a place for him in your heart
And from his memory do not part."
-Flor Ortega

"Naseem, I'll never forget you – *your smile, your jokes, your ability to make me smile no matter what.* You'll always be with me. Forever love," – Sarah M.

"You will be missed." –Kyle D.

"I loved the way he would always find me and talk, just make conversation. I love him so much." –Brian.

"RIP. We'll miss you. May God watch over you with the angels." –Jasmine E.

"We all miss you so much." --Malorie.

"You were an awesome friend. I can always count on you. You make me smile whenever I think about you. You will always be remembered with me. I miss you and love you a lot." -Anonymous

"You will always be in my thoughts." Jessica S.

"He was a brother. Miss you." -Sarah.

"Naseem was a dear friend to me. He was my neighbor and classmate. He rode the bus with me and loved clowning around with Mace, David, Jordan, Zack and Noah. We all miss him dearly. May he rest in peace and always be remembered.
Love Always"
-Tori Ebbing (11)

"Bio was so much fun with you. I'll see you again in Heaven. Miss you. Bye for now." -Karmen.

"I will always remember putting water on your chair and you always sitting on it and never noticing. Miss ya, see you in Heaven." -Crystal S.

"I'm gonna miss you Naseem." -Blake N.

"You know how many people here care about you and miss you and mom for your passing. Naseem you are loved and missed. You were a great person, friend, jokester, rapper, and gangster of course. No words can say how we truly miss you and how we truly feel. You are so loved and I hope you know it too. You, along with the memories you have created, will never be forgotten. I love you and miss you."
Love always,
-Katelyn

"Radio class isn't going to be the same without you. I miss you so much." -Macie H.

"I love you. You will always be my best friend forever more. I will never forget you now I don't even see your smiling face anymore it's just a memory but those memories will be locked up forever." RIP -Aaron Kee

"You made track the bomb. This coming year I'm winning for you! You're always in my heart. I [heart] you." -Sam S.

"We all will miss you. See you later in life." –Haley.

"Best friend in the world, my hero. RIP." -Mike G.

"Naseem - will remember your *smile*. RIP." -Miss Davidson.

"Hey N, I will *see you when it's time*." -Deavin E.

"Naseem was a cool, unique guy. He was the type of person you could say funny things to, and instead of looking at you with no expression, he would start laughing. That's what made Naseem a great person. He will be missed by many."
-Eric Gauger (11)

"Thanks for always cheering me up. Miss ya lots. Love" – Crystal S.

"Gone but not forgotten. RIP." -Gabey W.

"You are awesome friend. We'll miss you." -Ashley Brown.

"I miss you. [Heart] always." -Ashley D.

"Wish you were still here." -Caroline I.

"I love you Naseem. You'll always be in my heart. I'll cherish all the memories we've had. It's a shame we haven't talked much this year. I love you." -Sophia V.

"Naseem, good times with you. You were always the highlight of my day, coming to school with rap songs everyday. Track was great. I love you and miss you. Have fun, say hi to Tasha for me, see ya soon. RIP." -Kayla P.

"I'll miss you bro." -Sohail E.

"The only guy I knew who would come to people and introduce himself as who he was to be, Peace out dawg" –Anonymous

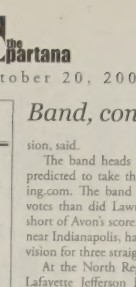
"A brother found and a brother lost, we will never forget him, because to all of us he was family, and a great friend…I'll miss you man."
–Anonymous

"Save me a spot on the 4x400 in Heaven." -Kaleb.

Class A State Band Rankings (as of 10.18.2006)

According to the Indiana Marching.com writer's poll, Homested is ranked 3rd in the state going into the State Finals Saturday. Here are the other top ranked bands in the state and where they hail from.

1. **LAWRENCE CENTRAL** — *Indianapolis, Indiana* — Total Votes: 114, 4 first place
2. **AVON** — *Avon, Indiana* — Total Votes: 113, 2 first place
3. **HOMESTEAD** — *Fort Wayne, Indiana* — Total Votes: 108, 3 first place
4. **CENTER GROVE** — *Indianapolis, Indiana* — Total Votes: 97
5. **PENN** — *Mishawaka, Indiana* — Total Votes: 85
6. **BEN DAVIS** — *Indianapolis, Indiana* — Total Votes: 81
7. **CASTLE** — *Indianapolis, Indiana* — Total Votes: 74
8. **CARROLL** — *Fort Wayne, Indiana* — Total Votes: 61
9. **LAKE CENTRAL** — *Indianapolis, Indiana* — Total Votes: 59
10. **SNIDER** — *Fort Wayne, Indiana* — Total Votes: 48



Band, continued from page 1A

sion, said.

The band heads into Saturday's competition predicted to take third place by IndianaMarching.com. The band received just six fewer first votes than did Lawrence Central, and just five short of Avon's score. Avon High School, located near Indianapolis, has won the Spartans' state division for three straight years.

At the North Regional competition, held at Lafayette Jefferson High School last Saturday, the band was selected as a finalist for the state competition along with four other bands from that competition. Avon was among the finalists selected at the South Regional, which was held at Jefferson High School.

"Avon will probably be the biggest rival because they're the defending champions, but Penn will also be there. It's always good to see all the other bands around the state too," Mockler said.

The last time the Spartans won the state competition was ten years ago, at the 1996 state finals.

Spartans Close Out Regular Season

Senior night was held last Friday night before, during, and after the football game against New Haven.

Before the game, parents met with the seniors to pin boutonnières and a cape onto uniforms. After their halftime performance, the announcer presented each senior band member. Seniors were escorted by their parents.

"Walking down the track was the same kind of feeling you have before you perform - you're nervous because you don't know how it will turn out," Liz Kitto (12) said.

Following the game the seniors were invited to the cafeteria to be given an individual speech by director Steve Barber and had their shoes shined by the juniors.

"It was nice to have someone do something like that for us. It's always been the seniors who pull the band together and keep everyone on task and working hard, so it was nice to have someone take care of us for a change," Stefania Turkette (12) said.

The Fall Festival of Bands was hosted by here two weekends ago. Although the Spartans were not placed because they hosted, they were judged and scored along with the other bands.

"It's a huge day for the band. Not only does it bring in a lot of money for the program, it also gives us an opportunity to compete against some of our biggest rivals before state finals," Andy Mockler (10) said.

Aside from the performance, band members enjoyed simply hanging out together at the Festival.

"It was really cold outside but it was fun battling the weather and to be around band people," Sarah Uhey (9) said.

One of the band's biggest rivals, Avon, won the competition and beat the Spartans by .95 points, which is the closest any band has got them by the same judging panel.

"After the performance, a lot of alumni from the band program told me, 'Oh you are so going to give Avon a run for their money at state,'" Rudy said.

At the Snider Invitational, held right after the Fall Festival, the Spartans placed first, also winning awards for the best music, visuals, general effect, color guard, and drum major.

"Our performance at the fall festival wasn't as good as it should have been, but later that night at the Snider Invitational, we had a better show," Adam Sirois (11) said.

Lunch, continued from page 1A

as well as the speech and debate team office area. These rooms would have to be moved to another part of the school if the expansion takes place. The addition would seat as many as 200 more students.

Currently the most cost-effective plan for this situation would be to expand the already existing cafeteria. According to Coplen, the proposal is estimated to cost anywhere from $180,000 to $185,000.

If this expansion plan is approved, it will be accomplished during the summer of 2007. It will be complete for the beginning of the 2007-08 school year.

"The School Board has not made any decisions on the proposal. They would like to see a little further study on the expansion of the serving area before we move forward," Coplen said.

The overcrowding during lunch has slowly become a bigger problem than expected. As student enrollment has increased, there has been less room in the cafeteria in each module.

The number of students in each module is about equal. With more than 2000 students in attendance each day there are approximately 700 students in each lunch.

Arissa Doran (10) eats C lunch. "C lunch has way too many people in it, which I'm sure is the case in A and B lunch. I feel like I have to rush to the lunch line to have a chance to actually sit down and eat my food before the lunch period is over," Doran said.

Each lunch module is 25 minutes long, with five minutes provided to get to the cafeteria, and five minutes afterward to return to class. With seven different lunch lines (some of which sell the same items depending on the special of the day), there are theoretically 100 students in each line, each lunch period.

Some students complain that upperclassmen, especially seniors, have a tendency to cut others in order to get through the lines much, much faster.

Solutions vary. Instead of an expansion of the main cafeteria, there been discussion of creating a separate lunch room for the freshmen in the old Woodside cafeteria.

Some feel that this would make the freshmen more comfortable, much like the creation of the academy itself. Jerry Schillinger, assistant principal and head of the academy, shared both sides of this argument.

"The current cafeteria cannot handle any more students," Schillinger said. "Actually, we're already overcrowded. Some freshmen would like a separate place to eat; others enjoy eating with the upperclassmen. Parents are also mixed in their opinions."

Andi Tolentino (10) is another student who eats C lunch.

"Last year, I was glad that we got to eat with the upperclassmen," Tolentino said. "It gave me a chance to see some of my older friends that I didn't get to see since I was always over at the academy. I still think that something needs to be done so that our lunches aren't so crowded.

"The option of the freshmen having their own lunch at the academy could cost us as much or more than this expansion. The students would also not be able to have the same variety of choices as they do now at the main cafeteria. Another concern with this option is that we believe it is a benefit for the freshmen to be integrated into the high school setting by eating lunch with the other classes."

At the Board meeting, the possibility for a fourth module was also proposed. However, this would create a problem with scheduling since fifth period is already ten minutes longer than all the other periods.

Grant, continued from page 1A

"The vision behind the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's National School District and Network Grants Program is nothing less than the transformation of the American high school experience. The initiative seeks to catalyze a shift from large, anonymous, comprehensive schools to smaller learning communities, in which strong relationships between students and adults are combined with challenging, inquiry-based curricula...," the foundation's web site reads.

For the past four years, the federal government has provided this grant to about 40 high schools annually. Homestead being one of three from Indiana to receive the grant this year.

The grant is the largest ever received by the district, and the money will be spread out over five years.

One of the two staff members the grant requires winners of the grant to hire is an SLC (smaller learning community) coordinator. The person oversees the funding of the grant as well as expenditures associated with it. They will also work some in the area of career exploration and will provide some remediation for unsuccessful students.

"The primary job of this person is to work with teachers, counselors, and administrators to promote the concept of...breaking [Homestead] down from being such a big high school into the smaller learning communities," Assistant Principal Jerry Schillinger said.

The freshmen academy is the first and foremost part of that smaller learning community. Previously Woodside Middle School, the building adjacent to the main campus has served as home to freshmen core classes for two years. The program was created to help smooth the transition from middle school to high school.

The second staff member the grant allows the school to hire is a Transition Specialist. This person will work mainly in the seminar room in the freshmen academy.

"They will work hands-on with kids...helping with the transition from eight grade to high school. This also frees up our core team of teachers during seminar so they can give more individualized help," Schillinger said.

The final part of the grant will be used for staff training.

"We have enough [money] to send teachers and counselors to various workshops that can help them in developing their smaller learning communities by looking at what other schools are doing successfully... We'll be able to bring in speakers and offer on-sight training for staff," Schillinger said.

Four years ago, the administration received a $50,000 planning grant that allowed them to travel to 13 other freshmen academies across the country. This helped them research and come up with a plan to implement their own smaller learning community.

Upon submitting their plan to the government the next year, they were turned down. Again they tried for the grant the next year and were again turned down.

"We thought, 'Well, shoot we've done everything we can and they've said no,'" Schillinger said.

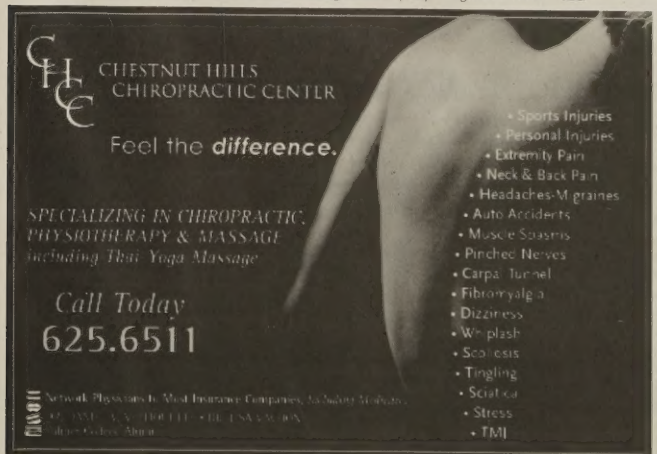
But they stuck with it, and two weeks ago they finally received good news.

"It is very hard to get. They are a lot of people who are turned down. We're happy we kept with it... We have a very detailed plan. There's not a whole lot of flex in how the money is spent. I think that's part of the reason they approved it is because we were very detailed as to where we were going with it," Schillinger said.

Schillinger also pointed to the establishment of the freshmen academy as another reason their plan was finally approved. Since the program is now in its second year, it showed to them that Homestead is dedicated to the establishment of smaller learning communities, he said.

Although the grant will be used mainly to build up the freshmen academy program, Schillinger has hopes it can eventually impact students in all grades.

"We need to use this grant not only to make the program better but also to meet the needs of tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders who need extra help to make it through," Schillinger said.



page 4A
issue 4 volume 37
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Opinion

Friday, October 20, 2006

Fuzzy Edges
by Austin Hetrick

Measuring Life-Mile by Mile

1989: my brother and I were close to our first birthday. It was the year my parents separated and divorced. Mom moved to Fort Wayne to be with family. Dad moved to Indianapolis from Hartford, Connecticut, to be closer.

Like many children of divorced parents, this gap between the two cities meant that Zach and I made a bi-weekly trek across miles of highway to be with Dad. We made the two hour trip first in 1990, and we'll end our 16-year journey about a year from now.

Interstate 69, the road we've taken, is one of the most visually boring roads in the world. It is impeccably straight, flat, rarely crowded, and surrounded almost exclusively by miles of bleak farmland. Exits numbers mark the journey. Fort Wayne, Muncie, Fairmount, Pendleton, Anderson, Indianapolis.

Zach and I have spent a good portion of our lives trapped within the walls of cars—semis and steel always nearby. The journey has been a constant, something regular and expected.

Between homes so much has changed. My parents remarried, cars have changed, I have a sister, football in the parking lot is now Frisbee, we've graduated from Old Yeller on tape to crime novels—Sue Grafton, Elmore Leonard—and I saw my step mom for the last time.

If I were to die tomorrow, my biography would be called Highway 69, (all due respect to Mr. Dylan). My life is stretched across the asphalt, memories are all along that road. I've driven it for so many reasons:

To see weddings, funerals, for surgery, for plays, to party, to watch Tom Petty, to work, to see my dad, to see Pam for the last time.

I still can't tell you what's at every exit, or exactly how many miles it is from here to there, but I truly do know 169 as well as I know myself. I recognize trees, farms, buildings, billboards, weigh stations, accident sites, fishing holes, hunting shacks, restaurants, museums—sites many miss on this roadway. By my roughest calculations, I've spent 60 entire days on 169 between my homes.

For 16 years I have grown up on this lonely stretch of interstate, surrounded by farms and bathed in afternoon sunlight, one of my parents at the wheel. Last year we started to drive it on our own, but often one of our parents would tag along.

Someday soon, like those of us destined for college, I'll be alone for good, off on a new road, away from the places I know so well. Will I miss this dreary roadway? Probably not. But I will remember it.

Four parents
350 miles every other weekend
720 trips
135,000 miles-(5 times round the world)
$11,600 in gas
One dashboard deer
Ten years at Arby's
Three years at Burger King
Three years at East of Chicago
Three Honda Accords
Two Toyota Camrys
One red Volkswagon
65 hours of NPR
500 meals on the road
100 stories on tape
Two homes

One more year

Split the difference: weight class rank

Editorial board proposes to weight class rank, rather than GPA

College applications have been flooding into student services for nearly a month now, and the tidal wave appears to be growing as January, and deadlines, approach. The conversation at home for seniors varies from Grade Point Average (GPAs), extra curriculars, individualism essays, and recommendations.

Soon the tidal wave will rumble across the nation to university admissions offices, where counselors will sift through the mountains of mail making crucial decisions.

Within a few short weeks (if they're lucky) seniors will hold in their hands either the joyous packet announcing their admission, or the letter which will spell uncertainty and worry until the next letter arrives. In this difficult process of admissions it is critical that high schools provide their students with the best possible solutions in order to be accepted, and Homestead is no exception. The editorial board admires the long-standing efforts of administrators who must sift through the applications during this time, but more can be done.

Colleges base their admissions decisions on several factors. GPAs, class ranks, extra curriculars, essays, recommendations, community service and course difficulty are just a few of the factors that universities base their decisions on. Some colleges pick and choose which they will value, and more often than not one college's emphasis on one of these factors is not matched by another college. Thus high schools must maintain the fairest representation of their students as they can when presenting them to admissions departments. Some high schools are achieving this through weighted grades.

Weighted grades, or the process of attaching extra points or emphasis on grades achieved in difficult courses (Advanced Placement, AP, or honors), is used by several area high schools. The process is an attempt to compensate for the difficulty of the courses by granting students who take them an extra boost on their GPA. The logic goes that if a student receives a B in an AP class they should receive the same "credit" as a student who receives an A in an easier course of the same subject.

This process rewards those students who take difficult courses, but it also has its drawbacks. Students who excel in regular courses but are not cut out for AP or honors are punished in the GPA and class rankings because of these weighted grades. Here another viable solution comes into play.

The editorial board urges the adoption of the middle ground by Homestead. We feel that the adoption of a partial weighted grade system would allow students who take hard courses to be fairly represented side by side with students who take easier ones, while at the same time not excessively damaging the chances of students who take regular courses.

In this plan, class rank would be affected by course selection, but not GPA. Thus both sides of the argument would be represented, and colleges would clearly be informed of the change on applications.

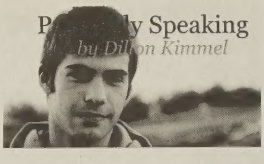
> "In this plan, class rank would be affected by course selection, but not GPA. Thus both sides of the argument would be represented and colleges would clearly be informed of the change on applications."

Some argue that colleges make their own decisions regardless of what high schools attempt to do—often disregarding the efforts of high schools to show off course selection.

But with increasing admissions costs to universities, some colleges have become more and more automated during this process, depending almost exclusively on class rank and GPA to make their admissions choices. Thus this change will serve to protect students' interests. Furthermore, if colleges truly make their own decisions, even going so far as to recalibrate a student's GPA based on their own scales, then this change will not affect that process any.

Kimmel: school deals well with a difficult subject

P...ly Speaking
by Dillon Kimmel



There are a hundred ways the administration could have handled the death of a student. And whatever route they took, I would probably have been unaffected. But those that knew him would have.

Dillon Kimmel
Columnist

Dealing with death isn't easy. In fact, it is perhaps the hardest thing a person will ever have to deal with. It tears at our very nature, at our very being. It puzzles us, and it angers us all at the same time. But the way death is presented to us and the way we are allowed to grieve is exceedingly important.

Death has hit home for me many times. My aunt. A family friend. Several classmates; some I knew, some I didn't. But each time, it has impacted me in a different way. And each time, I needed to grieve in a different way.

Last Wednesday, the school was shocked to learn we had lost another student, a ninth grader, Naseem Rachdi. News of death at this school has become all-too frequent, with the death of Zach Gentry in 2005 and J.P. Kindel and Justin Maroney the summer of 2004. But in each of those two events, school was not in session when the majority of students learned of the tragic news. In this case, there were very few who knew before school began.

This put the administration in an impossible place. How, if at all, should they tell the student body? They responded perfectly.

The administration instructed all teachers to inform their first period classes of the news and allow them to go down to student services if they needed someone to talk with. Students were informed only that Naseem had passed away, nothing more. And nothing else was needed.

Such a simple, yet adequate explanation was all the students needed. Whether the administration knew more, and they may not have, I do not know. But I do know the response was appropriate. Stopping classes would have only worsened the problem, allowing kids to dwell on the subject. Instead, those who did not believe they could focus were encouraged to go down to student services to see their counselor, allowing the school day to continue without ignoring the feelings of Naseem's friends and acquaintances.

That response would have sufficed. But the administration took it one step further, showing compassion beyond what they are called to show.

I went to the freshmen academy that day during seventh period to conduct an interview in the freshmen office and was humbled by what I saw.

The laboratory-white floors shown with the grief of the many students that trod on it that day, and the hallways were eerily silent as classes continued behind closed doors. But through the tragedy, Mrs. Moake walked the hallways, ready to comfort any student who needed it. She did this not out of obligation but out of concern for the students she works for, the students she cares deeply for.

I didn't know Naseem. But I have sympathy for those who did. There are a hundred ways the administration could have handled the death of a student. And whatever route they took, I would probably have been unaffected. But those that knew him would have.

The administration allowed the day to continue without being insensitive and showed admirable empathy to those who were affected deepest. And it is in respect to those students' feelings that I commend the administration for a job well done.

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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page 5A
issue 4 volume 37
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life

Killer's 'Sam's Town' reviewed, page 6

the KILLERS

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Friday, October 20, 2006

Lessons before voting

Teens eligible to vote make up the smallest percentage of electorate, many unaware of issues

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

With midterm elections just three weeks away, and seats for Congress and state offices up for grabs, registered students 18 or older registered are eligible to cast their ballots. Many of these students are taking the opportunity to vote, but whether these new voters are educated on the issues is questionable.

"Students seem pretty interested (in voting)" April Moss, a social studies teacher, said. "Whether or not students register is a just a matter of turning 18."

Elections, to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, give some students their first chance to get involved in government.

"It's kind of exciting to be able to participate in the government that sets up the rules that run your life," registered voter David Jarmus (12) said. "It's a big deal to turn 18 and be able to vote."

However, as a whole, younger citizens tend to have lower voter turnout according to the Center for Information & Research of Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE).

In the 2004 presidential election only 18.4% of votes came from voters 18-29 years old. That means that little more than half of those eligible actually cast their ballot.

And since 1992, the number of voters from the 18-29 age group has decreased from 20.7% to the last count of 18.4%. Because of these shortcomings, candidates stray from the issues most affecting youth.

"Candidates try to appease the people that vote for them," Moss said. "Those elected are supposed to represent everyone, but they are going to fight for the issues that please the people electing them to stay in office."

Statistics from the 2004 presidential campaign show that the older the voter the more likely it is that he will cast a ballot. The relationship between voter turnout and the issues discussed by candidates is apparent even in a quick glance at Tom Hayhurst's and Mark Souder's web sites. Some of the main issues displayed are social security, immigration, and aid for veterans.

But according to George Washington University's Young Voter's Strategies poll from September, 2006, voters ages 18-29 are most interested in college costs, new sources of energy, health care, and the job market. Students find a lack of focus on these issues by most politicians.

"Some say that low voter turnout shows confidence, but it's when the public gains a complacent attitude that bad things happen," social studies teacher Keith Potter said.

Some believe that the upcoming election may be more crucial than in previous years.

"With Bush's ratings down, Democrats are hoping to win back the House and the Senate" social studies teacher Jim Schmidt said. "The public is not as happy with Bush, and even some Republicans are trying to separate themselves from Bush and become more moderate."

> *"With teens it's not about the issues, it's about who their parents vote for, if their friends are Democrats or Republicans, or who has already been in office. I'm not saying that everyone is this way, I know kids who are really into it, but then again I know others who aren't."*
>
> David Jarmus
> Senior

The upcoming election pits Democrat Tom Hayhurst against Republican Mark Souder for an office in the House of Representatives. Souder, a representative in the House since 1995, has voted for pro-life legislation and regulation of the use of stem cells, as well as toughening up on national security. Hayhurst's website gives to-do list of issues for the candidate, including changes in the health care system, the importation of drugs from other countries, and an increase in immigration quotas. But the major issue affecting Homestead students is whether or not eligible voters are knowledgeable about where the candidates stand.

"It's not that teens don't have time to do the research, it's that they don't have the drive to put in the effort and research the topic," Jarmus said.

Most eligible students at Homestead have taken positive first steps by filling out the "five minute" registration form - which includes basic identification questions - and delivering it to Moss to be certified. However, the next step comes with education, knowing the issues surrounding the candidates, and knowing what the cast ballot is really voting for.

"With teens it's not about the issues, it's about who their parents vote for, if their friends are Democrats or Republicans, or who has already been in office," Jarmus said. "I'm not saying that everyone is this way, I know kids who are really into it, but then again I know others who aren't."

Still, Jarmus, Moss, and Potter all agreed that students are interested in voting, and that they were few that didn't take the advantage and register.

"There is always that attitude that one vote doesn't matter, that my voice won't be heard, but that's not the way it is at Homestead," Jarmus said.

THE CANDIDATES

U.S. Senate
Richard Lugar (Republican)
Jack Baldwin (write-in)
Steve Osborn (Libertarian)
Mark Pool (write-in)

U.S. House (3rd District)
*Mark Souder (Republican)
Tom Hayhurst (Democrat)

Indiana House of Representatives
*Jeffrey Espich (Republican)

Indiana Treasurer
Michael Griffin (Democrat)
Richard Mourdock (Republican)

Indiana Secretary of State
Joe Pearson (Democrat)
Todd Rokita (Republican)
Mike Kole (Libertarian)
Bill Stant (write-in)

Indiana State Auditor
Judy Anderson (Democrats)
Tim Burry (Republican)

Allen County Sheriff
Tina M. Taviano (Democrat)
Kenneth Fries (Republican)
Paul Smith (Independent)

Allen County Assessor
*Patricia Love (Democrat)
*Stacey Lopshire (Republican)

*Incumbent

CLUB BRIEFS

FALL COLLEGE FAIR
The Allen County Fall College Fair will be held at the Scottish Rite on Monday, Oct. 23 from 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Students and parents are invited to learn more about over 75 colleges and universities.

SPEECH & DEBATE
The first speech and debate competition will take place at Columbia City on Saturday, Oct. 28th. The Homestead Invitational will be held Saturday, Jan. 27th.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON
Students interested in being a part of the Academic Decathlon Team should meet in the speech room, room 711 on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Sign up with a social studies teacher to help plant trees, move mulch, water the plants, and more at Indian Trails Park on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Halloween festivities: trick or treat?

While Halloween brings fun and candy, students should remember safety

By Kara Busse
Writer

On one night each year, millions of kids across the nation dress up in costumes and take to the streets saying those three magic words in search of chocolate bars and candy. Just about everyone loves a spooky dose of witches, black cats, ghosts, and goblins, but very few people actually know how the holiday came to be.

The first Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celtic people, who lived about 2,000 years ago in Ireland, celebrated their New Year on November 1. For the Celts, this time of the year was often associated with human death, and their New Year's Eve was believed to mark the day when the worlds of the living and the dead were able to cross over.

Today in the U.S this holiday is used as an excuse to go trick-or-treating and dress up in costumes, and although these things have ancient roots, most kids think about and look forward to one thing: the candy.

"My favorite thing about Halloween is the candy. I like going trick-or-treating with people and getting as much as I can," Jessica Howard (11) said.

Another popular Halloween treat during the end of October are the trips to the frightening local haunted venues.

A favorite is the Haunted Cave off Engle Road. This year the cave began its 9th season with 20 rooms and mazes that stretch about a fourth of a mile and can take about 30 minutes to complete.

"It was fun and different. The fog room with the bright, white light was cool," Nate James (11) said.

The Haunted Cave is taking canned food donations to help the Community Harvest Food Bank. Donations can reduce ticket prices by $2.

The intersection of Wallen and Old Auburn Road hosts two more spots people go to have fun during October. The Haunted Castle and Black Forest are conveniently placed only feet from each other. One scare can take anywhere from 20 to 50 minutes to complete depending on how many times a visitor gets lost in the Super Maze.

"I thought the castle was more like a fun house, but it was still really fun. I liked all the flashy lights and screaming," Amber Hadaway (10) said.

Another favorite spook is the Haunted Jail located in Columbia City. The cost is $9 for a chilling tour around this prison. Students agree the price is worth the visit.

"It was really scary and all the people were really creepy," Jacqui Matheis (10) said.

There are plenty of fun things about Halloween, but adventurers should make sure to stay safe while trick-or-treating. Remember to travel in groups, carry a cell phone incase of an emergency, never enter a stranger's home while collecting candy, and be careful what you get yourself into if you're 'tricking.' Pranks can go wrong, and if they are destructive and aggressive they can have legal consequences.

FAVORITE SPOOKY SPOTS

Haunted Cave
4410 Arden Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Haunted Castle & Black Forest
8965 Auburn Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

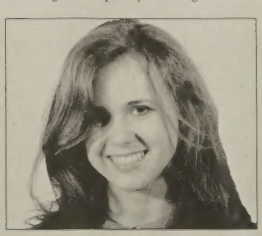
Haunted Jail
611 East Market Street
Columbia City, IN 47625

A Column by Emma Farnsworth

Emma: balancing applications and the frightening future

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

This Halloween season, my peers are getting into the ghoulish spirit by frolicking in haunted castles, caves, jails, hotels, and The Java Depot (I never see cars there…creepy). But while they are out having fun, I shall be tackling a much more fearsome endeavor: applying to college. If you want a truly scary costume this Halloween, I suggest dressing as a college admissions counselor.



You remember my column on procrastination? Yeah…about that. Maybe it's a good thing the advice aspect of my column didn't pan out, because I can't even follow my own directions. I watch as Dillon and Puja tote around their color-coded applications. I listen to others fret over letters of recommendation. I visit college campuses and picture myself among the students. Yes! I think. This is what I want! This is why I work so hard – to gain admittance to one of these prestigious institutions of higher learning! But a week later, I've done nothing to inch closer to *getting in*. I remain unmotivated. I'll get around to it, I tell myself. I look forward to college, but the thought of choosing my future is frightening. What if I don't get in?

I still think of college as something in the distance, some kind of fantasy land where I have cute dorm décor and eat pizza at 2 a.m. I envision my college experience as similar to that of Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde." I wish I could breeze through the application process in a montage of clips set to an upbeat soundtrack.

Watch as Emma studies for her SATs with a pink stopwatch around her neck! Oh, poor, studious Emma – she fills out forms while her friends attend a football game!

Silly Emma, snoozing at her desk, her head buried in thick books! Stop the music for a moment to listen to her adorable and humorous video admissions essay, in which she plays with her dog and smiles at the camera! And then, after all the hard work, the streamers and balloons pour down from the ceiling as I wave my acceptance letters in the air and ride on the shoulders of handsome young men.

Elle Woods was an anomaly at Harvard Law School: she stood out with her pink stilettos and spunky personality. Even more terrifying than the thought of not getting in is the thought of not standing out. What if, when I get into the college of my choice, I find myself on a campus filled with hundreds of other Emma Farnsworths? Maybe even *better* Emma Farnsworths? It would be worse than any horror film: you wake up not only to find that you are merely a clone, but also that you're one of the prototypes, or maybe just a generic, knock-off brand.

Sure, we're special in high school, but what about on a broader spectrum? Maybe we're number one here, but where do we fall in the real world?

'Sam's Town' stops short of expectations

Where 'Hot Fuss' delivers, new album lacks in musical quality and substance

Brad Lufkin
Writer

The Killers' classically funky music that colored their first album "Hot Fuss" has disappeared in the new "Sam's Town," an album that barely meets expectations.

"Hot Fuss," released in June of 2004, sold over five million copies worldwide. "Sam's Town" will sell big as well, although the money spent may not be worth the music.

"Sam's Town"
By The Killers
Release Date: October 3, 2006

Before the new album hit stores, the Killers released a single, "When You Were Young," in September. The song highlights the strengths of the band. The instrumental music is good and the lyrics are very meaningful.

The title song contains a 'Night at the Roxbury' beat, but the Killers maintain their old sounds, creating a pretty good track.

Next on the album comes "Enterlude," which amounts to a simple filler song. "Enterlude" along with "Exitlude," the song at the end of the album, are pointless. They sound like the band had a few minutes left to on the CD, so they recorded two short songs that act like bookends with not many books in between them.

The sixth track, "Read My Mind," is where the album starts going downhill. This track contains about just as much synth as a bad '80's song, and it lasts throughout much of the album. It is a hindrance to the overall quality of the CD.

In parts of some of the songs, the volume is very low; the last 30 seconds of "Exitlude" are very similar to the first minute of "My List" in that they are barely audible.

The song "For Reasons Unknown" sounds odd, as if the singer is singing into a fan, creating that trademark quavering sound.

There are some bright spots to the album though. "Bones," another single, welcomes the addition of a brass section and gives the song a lighter, more playful feel. The Killers have also cut back on the synth in this track (surprisingly, considering the amount that still exists in the album), opting to use more real instruments that produce some good tunes.

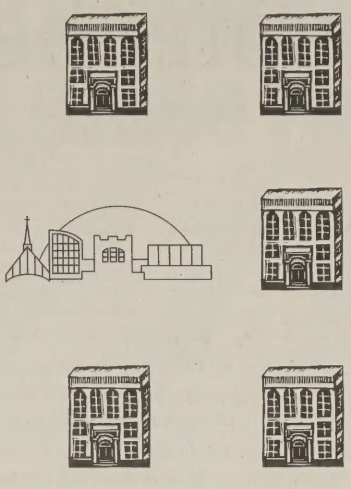
Yet considering the fact that they are somewhat of a synth-rock band, the electric music stays; it's part of their style.

The band still shows musical wit, which they first showcased in "Hot Fuss." The chorus hooks of songs like "Bones" catches the listener's attention and draws them into the song.

"Uncle Johnny" is a really good, edgy song from "Sam's Town." It shows the creativity of The Killers and how good their music can be, as well as highlighting quality lyrics. Even though "Sam's Town" does not reflect the band that created "Hot Fuss," future albums can be much better.

A September review by *Rolling Stone*, Rob Sheffield summed it up: "On 'Sam's Town' [The Killers] seem like they're trying to make a big statement, except they have nothing to say - and who thought a band as shrewd as the Killers would fall into such an obvious trap?"

Find the college that's different.



Picking the right college may never be this easy, but it doesn't have to be hard. Visit **findyourplace.manchester.edu** to see why students who want to choose a different path choose Manchester College.

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tvreviews

30 Rock

Airs: Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. EST on NBC

As one of the last TV shows to debut this fall season, "30 Rock" by Tina Fey ("Saturday Night Live" alum and "Mean Girls" writer) is NBC's second show modeled after the entertainment business. "30 Rock" features Liz Lemon (Fey), the creator of a hit TV show. When Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) is put in charge of the network producing Fey's show, he decides to make some changes. Donaghy instructs Fey to hire Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) to act on the show, much to Fey's dismay. The dark humor and sarcasm add a humorous edge, and Baldwin and Fey's characters give the show its depth. Morgan's character has yet to develop; he appears as a crazy, stereotypical gangster. With an enticing beginning and a well-played set-up for a prelude into the next showing, "30 Rock" promises some entertainment. Parts of the show seem to be a faked effort to entertain, but the story line is believable and interesting. Upcoming episodes will show whether this sitcom will be as well received as Fey's other works.

Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip

Airs: Tuesdays at 10:00 p.m. EST on NBC

"Studio 60" is a television show all about television; in a sense, it's ironic to watch an hour long episode about how a comedy show is run - from backstage mishaps to the relationships between the crew. Created and written by Aaron Sorkin, the show is set to be another hit drama for NBC. Featuring veteran actors Matthew Perry (from "Friends"), Amanda Peet ("A Lot Like Love"), and Bradley Whitford (from "The West Wing"), the crew of the fictional comedy show attempts to save their spiraling series with a new producer (Peet) and fresh writers (Perry and Whitford). But the show manages to convey more than the simple drama of the entertainment industry. Instead, with Sorkin's writing and excellent performances by all the actors, the show becomes a deeper look into how the characters (Perry and Whitford especially) strive to be successful in the media industry while maintaining their friendship and their ideals. While it may sound thick for a TV show, "Studio 60" is worth a glance.

Friday Night Lights

Airs: Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. EST on NBC

The new television show "Friday Night Lights" is an addictive show, even after just two episodes. Based on the book by H.G. Bissinger and the movie from 2004, this show focuses on the small town of Dillon, Texas, and the high school football team. Kyle Chandler plays the team's coach, a man in a position with great expectations put on him. Throughout the hour-long episodes, viewers see glimpses of how much the town lives for the Friday football games. From the "Closed - gone to the game" signs that hang in the windows of every store to the state championship ring on every adult man's finger, football is what the town lives for. The team's quarterback, Scott Parker, manages to maintain the classic American high school football star persona without coming off as cheesy. The show takes advantage of the small-town setting and the high school arena and creates a drama that is at once accessible and sentimental. "Friday Night" is yet another NBC drama setting up for a successful first season.

sudoku bookreviews

	4			1	6			2
8				4				9
	1						4	
	5		1			6		
	8		5		7		3	
		3			9		5	
	6						2	
4				5				3
5			9	8			6	

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

Catch-22
by Joseph Heller

Genre: Fiction
Synopsis: Yossarian finds himself in a "Catch-22:" he can't leave duty unless he's insane, but to claim insanity one has to be sane. The setting and surrounding characters create a crazy world - only furthered by the nonlinear sequence of events - that is simultaneously hilarious and frightening.
Recommended Because: Set during WWII, the novel is both a satire on the ridiculous nature of war and the frailty of human life. Heller's prose is moving, funny, shocking, and dangerously enjoyable.

The Time Traveler's Wife
by Audrey Niffenegger

Genre: Fiction
Synopsis: Henry has a strange knack for traveling backward and forward in time, but not under his own free will. His wanderings in time allow him to meet his wife before they are married, see his daughter before she is born, and ultimately lead the story to its sad ending.
Recommended Because: The novel is unique in its plot and the author's storytelling, both of which are exceptional.

Freakonomics
by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Genre: Nonfiction
Synopsis: The economic investigation tries to find meaning in numbers and attempts to discover the causes for social phenomena using theories that are far from standard, including explaining the fallen crime rate by Roe v. Wade, showing how some teachers attempt to cheat on standardized tests, exposing the flaws of modern day parenting, and breaking the boundaries of socioeconomic borders.
Recommended Because: A new look at economics in a completely different light forces the reader to take another closer and harder look at the world around him.

The Kite Runner
by Khaled Hosseini

Genre: Fiction
Synopsis: Amir and Hassan come from different social classes in troubled Afghanistan, and their friendship is ripped apart by a single unforgiveable act for which Amir blames himself.
Recommended Because: The story is accessible for Western readers, and the abrupt new view of a culture and a country in tatters makes for a heartbreaking and fascinating read.

filmreview

'The Departed' hits theaters as a 'masterpiece'

By Chris Purdy
Writer

Jack Nicholson and Matt Damon star in "The Departed," which grossed $56.6 million since its release Oct. 6, 2006. All photographs are printed under Fair Use guidelines.

This is the film I have been waiting for all year. In a way, it is the perfect movie experience. Martin Scorsese, who has yet to disappoint me and may be the greatest living American director, has created another masterpiece that is wildly entertaining, action packed, at times hilarious, and genuinely suspenseful. At the same time, however, "The Departed" is thought provoking, relentlessly brutal, and in the end, a modern Shakespearean tragedy.

It is based on a 2002 Hong Kong cop thriller with an almost identical plot called Infernal Affairs, but "The Departed" improves upon it in virtually every conceivable way. Because the original was a shorter film, there just wasn't the time for as much development, and that is where "The Departed" really shines. The characters in it are so fleshed out, so complex, that the viewer has no idea whose side he wants to be on, making the cat-and-mouse game that much more terrifying.

Leonardo DiCaprio, in possibly the best performance of his career, plays Billy Costigan, a trainee for the Boston police with a family history in the local Irish Mafia. Matt Damon plays Colin Sullivan, a recently graduated cadet of the state police who rises in the ranks quickly, and is seen by his colleagues as an ideal officer.

Secretly, though, he is the adopted son of Frank Costello, played brilliantly by Jack Nicholson. Costello is the boss of the local mob, and Colin is his mole in the police. Costigan, on the other hand, because of his family ties, is immediately questioned by Captain Queenan (Martin Sheen) and Dignam (Mark Wahlberg).

When Costigan's loyalty is determined, the cadet school decides to "fail" him, send him to prison for a while, and make him their mole in Costello's gang. Billy eventually gets close to Frank, and he is able to leak information to Queenan. Similarly, Sullivan is leaking info about police activity to Frank. Both the police and the mob know they each have a rat, but they don't know who it is.

Sullivan gets the job of finding himself - that is the rat in the police - so stalls while using his investigative powers as a detective to discover the undercover cop in Costello's crew. Costigan has to keep Costello convinced that it's not him, while at the same time trying to discover the traitor in the police force. It's a tangled web of deception and betrayal, and when things escalate past the point of no return, it all falls apart in a tragic finale that will blow your mind.

It is, without a doubt, an instant gangster classic up there with Scorsese's "Goodfellas." Though it has a relatively long running time of two and a half hours, the film is paced perfectly and does not slow down. In fact, it builds up the entire time until the end and feels much shorter than it really is.

This movie is a success on all levels, with brilliant direction and camera work, stylish editing, outstanding use of music, and most of all, unbelievable performances.

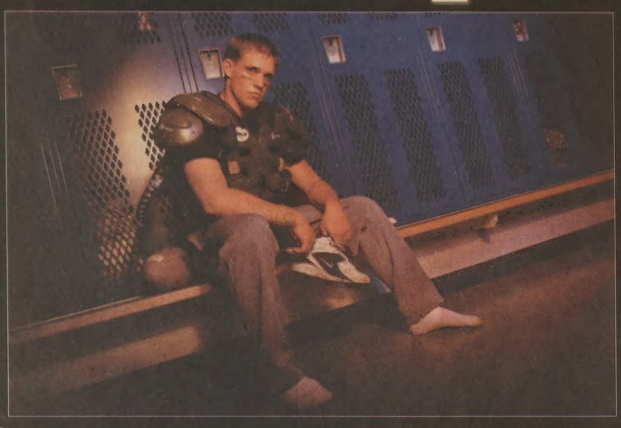
Aside from the three main characters, Sheen and Wahlberg are the perfect good cop/bad cop duo, Alec Baldwin is hysterical, and Vera Farmiga is a talented actress who is sure to be in more big pictures.

"The Departed" is utterly masterful and most likely the greatest film of the year, if not one of the greatest of the past decade.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Mark Wahlberg, Alec Baldwin, Martin Sheen Directed by Martin Scorsese

Purdy's Rating: ★★★★

fallsportraits



kylesherer—senior, linebacker

daniellegauthier—senior, outside hitter

joesalisbury—senior, defender

jessicascortino—senior, golfer

joshrifkin and dannyreecer—
senior, junior, doubles players

meganterrell and briangraham—
sophomore, junior, runners

jordanweber—freshman, forward

issue 4 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

2nd at state

Tennis returns home with a second place at state finish. see page 4B

Friday, October 20, 2006

POSTSEASON PLAY

Fall sports conclude, enter postseason play in one of the most successful years in athletic history

SEMI-STATE QUALIFIER

Racing to the next round

Boys advance to second straight semi-state, girls looking to get back to state

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Both the boys and girls cross country teams participated in regionals and advanced to semi-state. The top five teams from each regional qualify for semi-state. For the Spartans, the girls took third place while the boys slipped through with a fifth place finish.

Regionals was held last Saturday, October 14, at Bellmont, and semi-state will be run tomorrow at The Plex, which was also the home of the NHC (Northeast Hoosier Conference) and sectional courses. Both the boys and girls will be racing on the semi-state course for the fourth time this season.

"At this point it is do or die. And unfortunately, I can't use the excuse that I have one more year [to succeed]... this is my last chance.."

Andrew Schroeder (12)
runner

The boys team has now advanced to semi-state for the second consecutive year, this coming after a long drought of early sectional exits. Brian Graham (11) led the team with an eleventh place finish, running a season-best 16:55.

It was the first time a Spartan has run under 17 minutes on a 5 kilometer course since Steve Clark ('06) last year. Brandon Saalfrank (11) was second for the team for the first time this season, coming in at 17:30. Andrew Schroeder (12) and Donny Heath (9) were three and four seconds behind Saalfrank, respectively, and Danny White (12) finished off the scoring for the Spartans.

The boys were forced to run for the second consecutive meet with Colin Lyman (10), who was still battling illness at the time of regionals.

This year, Heath has stepped into a varsity role as a freshman. Despite the pressure of being a top runner, Heath has consistently run a top five time each race. Many of the team members believe Heath's contribution has been critical, especially due to the injuries the team has dealt with. Heath feels the same way.

"It feels pretty good helping lead the team. I definitely look to continue [being] a top runner next year," Heath said.

Schroeder realizes how critical every race is, especially to the seniors.

"At this point it is do or die. And unfor

see cross country on page 2B

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Brandon Saalfrank (11) runs in the NHC meet. The boys are participating in semi-state tomorrow.

SEMI-STATE INFO
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Location: The Plex
Other Info: The teams will race on the course for the fourth time this season.

SECTIONAL CHAMPS

Boys soccer falls in regional play

Team took home sectional crown despite injuries to several varsity players

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

As the fall comes to a close so are several sports seasons, such as the boys soccer team. Their season ended earlier than they anticipated, in regionals, but showed tremendous improvement during the season.

The team's final regular season was at New Haven, and a win would clinch the conference title for the Spartans. The boys came out slow and fell down 2 – 0 midway through the first half. However, Kegan Harkenrider (9) scored before half to give the Spartans some momentum for the second half. Sean Dulworth (10) and Mike Cobb (12) added second half goals to get the win and conference title.

The championship was just one mark of improvement for the team from the beginning of the year. They lost their conference opener to East Noble but did not lose another conference game the entire season.

Sectionals started October 5, at Homestead, and the team felt very confident they could surprise people around the state. They played Columbia City in the opener. After dominating the entire first half, the team was unable to finish their chances and entered half tied 0 – 0. Columbia City came out hard in and scored early.

"We don't really have anyone to blame but ourselves for what happened...we were the better team but didn't show up to play that night."

Tyler Lambert (12)
boys soccer player

The Spartans were then forced to battle the rest of the half to try to get an equalizer. Finally, with just over four minutes left in regulation, and possibly in the Spartans' season, Zach Mettler (9) found the back of the net. Entering overtime, Tom Gallmeyer (10) scored less than a minute in to give the team the lead and the eventual win. The team moved on to face Huntington North in the championship game.

On October 7, the team played in the sectional championship game against the Vikings.

Huntington North came out with a lot more energy in the start and if it weren't for a strong effort defensively and from goalie Tyler Lambert (12) the team could have faced an early deficit. The team hung strong and Dulworth scored with just 27 seconds left to go in the first half. This propelled the team into the second half. The offense exploded for four more goals. Cobb had two, which moved him into second place all time for single-season goals at 25. Jon Miller (12) also scored his first goal of his varsity career and

see boys soccer on page 2B

ENTERING SECTIONALS

FOOTBALL

With a 8-1 regular season record going into sectionals, the Spartans hope to knock off their first opponent, Goshen. Game tonight at 7:00 at Homestead. see page 2B

VOLLEYBALL

The girls finished up the regular season and begin postseason this weekend, looking for a sectional championship. see page 3B

NHC CONFERENCE CHAMPS

Girls soccer goes down to Bishop Dwenger again

By Kara Busse
Writer

The girls soccer team had a week off from their season as they prepared for post-season play. The sectional play of the boys soccer team caused the delay of the season, and girls sectional play began after the boys had already been named sectional champs.

Four years ago, the girls soccer team made an unprecedented run at the state title, eventually falling in the championship game. They took home the 2002 runner-up trophy. However, no team since them has been able to equal that team's success.

The Lady Spartans kicked off their sectionals by playing Northside, who proved to be a favorable matchup.

Luckily for the girls, they drew an easy opponent in the first round in Northside, a team that had struggled throughout the year.

They defeated them handily by a score of 12-0.

With the score being 8-0 at half, most of the team didn't particularly enjoy the match, and many of the subs got playing time towards the end of the game, giving the starters rest going into the second round.

"We pretty much knew we would win, and we played pretty well so the game got kind of boring. We eventually got restrictions from our coach and nobody likes that," Kate Bienz (10) said.

After beating the Raiders on Tuesday, October 10, the team met up against their rivals once again, the Bishop Dwenger Saints.

The game was heavily anticipated. It as the girls' second meeting with the number one Saints.

The atmosphere was electric, the fans packed the stadium, and the girls were pumped for a second shot at Bishop Dwenger. The fans helped the girls put up a fight, especially early.

But after a well-played and thrilling game, the Lady Spartans we're left trailing 2-1 to the Saints, at the final gun, an all-too familiar score.

This time there were no penalty kicks. Despite a great shot from Hopi Castillo (11) to get the Lady Spartans on the board, they would fall after a flurry of Bishop Dwenger goals.

Two goals by the Saints in quick succession put the Lady Spartans away. In just a five minute time period, the girls went from pretty content

Football enters sectionals

Spartans shake off first loss, beat up New Haven, play in first-round postseason action tonight against Goshen

By Chris Ray
Writer

The varsity football team's run at the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) title ended on Friday, October 6th, after losing to the Norwell Knights 56-18.

The loss was not only disappointing to the players, but also to the fans who were packed into the stands in what was considered the biggest regular season game in years.

The game did not start the way the Spartans wanted to. After Norwell standout Chandler Harnish (12) scrambled from the pocket, he fumbled the ball, which was picked up by another Norwell teammate and carried for a touchdown.

However, the offense responded with two straight passing touchdowns from quarterback Jordan Wise (12) to wide receivers Desmond Lewis (12) and Ryan Wright (11), making the score 12-7. But after that, the Spartan defense was no match for Norwell's high-powered offense.

Led by Harnish, the Knights scored 28 straight points before halftime, making the score 35-12. The main concern for the Spartans was turnovers, which they had five of during the game.

The second half was the same story. The Knights scored two more touchdowns to go up 49-12. The final score was 56-18, after Charles Seals (11) managed to rush for a touchdown late in the game.

"Even though Norwell was up by a lot, I don't think anybody on the team gave up. A loss never feels good, and this one was certainly disappointing, but the team kept fighting until the last whistle sounded," Brian Laipple (12), offensive and defensive tackle, said.

"It sucked. The loss to Norwell was a bad feeling. We didn't want to lose, but we didn't want to let this loss stop us," Jon Lehman (12), offensive and defensive tackle, said.

The Spartans' next game came against the New Haven Bulldogs, and the team practiced hard all week.

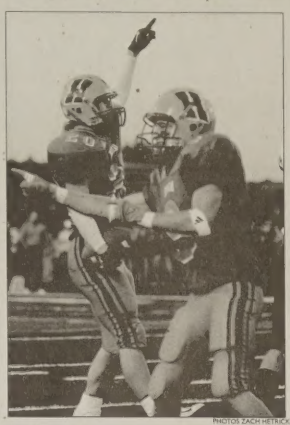
"We worked on being more physical and getting a little more nasty," Laipple said.

"The team just focused on our mistakes and tried to fix those areas which needed help," Lehman said.

The good practice week obviously showed, as the varsity football team returned to their old selves. After giving up a 65-yard touchdown pass by New Haven, the Spartans didn't let up.

The Spartans responded to the New Haven touchdown with a 37-yard passing touchdown from Jordan Wise (12) to Desmond Lewis (12). In the second quarter, the team did not let up. Wise (12) threw another touchdown to Lewis (12), making it his tenth touchdown catch of the season. Wise ran the ball for two more touchdowns in the quarter, increasing the score to 28-6.

The Spartans scored once more in the third quarter on a nine-yard pass from Wise to running back Seals, putting them up for good. The final score was 35-6, showing what seemed to be a good rebound from the Norwell loss.



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Brandon Dereck (11) celebrates after intercepting a pass.

"We really rebounded well from the loss. The team got that nasty gut feeling out of our stomachs and we played well. Nobody started to doubt this team's ability and we came out and played New Haven hard. The New Haven game was the end of the first season, and now we start an entirely new season tonight against Goshen," Laipple said.

The Sectionals start tonight when the Spartans play the Goshen Redskins. The Redskins, who are 5-4, has a notable offense, led by quarterback Shane Parson, running back Najee Slade, and wide receiver Justin Blosser (12).

> *"We rebounded well from the loss...The New Haven game was the end of the first season, and now we start an entirely new season tonight."*
>
> **Brian Laipple (12)**
> football player

Parson has thrown for 2,029 yards and 22 touchdowns, compared to Wise, who has about 1,500 passing yards and 18 touchdowns.

The Spartans receiving core compares with Goshen's as well. Lewis (12) has caught 10 touchdowns while Wright has over 450 receiving yards. Blosser, of Goshen, has about 9000 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns.

The Redskins' running back, Slade, has 1,110 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns, while the Spartans rushing attack has been spread out between Seals, Heckber, and Wise.

This game should come down to which defense can stop the opposing offense the best.

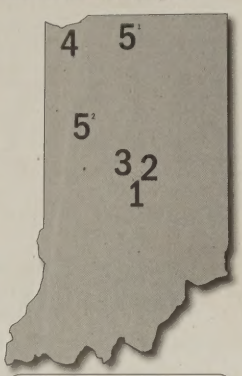
Nevertheless, this game marks the start of a new season, the postseason. This game is the beginning of what the Spartans believe is a state finals run.

Class 5A State Rankings (as of 10.18.2006)

According to the Indiana Football Coaches Association poll, Homestead is ranked 12th in the state going into the first round of sectional play. We take a look at the other top-ranked teams in the state and what makes them so good.

1 WARREN CENTRAL, (9-0)
Indianapolis, Indiana
Led by RB Darren Evans with 34 TDs and QB Matt Upshaw, who's thrown for seven TDS, Warren Central has once again established themselves as number one.

2 HAM. SOUTHEASTERN, (9-0)
Fishers, Indiana
Hamilton Southeastern's defense has been smothering, allowing just nine points per game. They also boast a powerful offense, which averages 37 points per game.



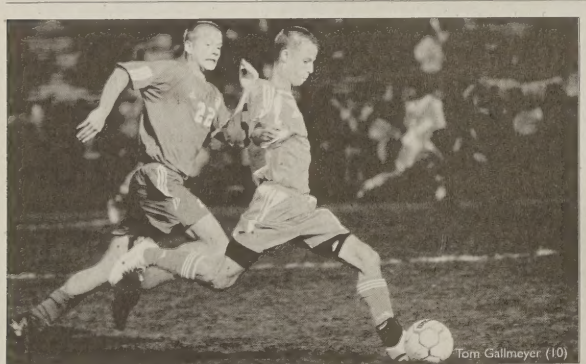
3 CARMEL, (7-2)
Carmel, Indiana
After a stunning loss in their home opener against Indianapolis Cathedral, the Greyhounds won five in a row before getting trounced at number one Warren Central.

5 (tie) PENN, (7-2)
Mishawaka, Indiana
Penn has lost twice already to quality opponents, once to Ben Davis and another to annual superpower St. Ignatius. The Cleveland area school has sent numerous players to the NFL.

4 CROWN POINT, (9-0)
Crown Point, Indiana
The final unbeaten team may not play in one of the premier conferences in the state, but the Bulldogs boast a strong defense with sectionals beginning tomorrow.

5 (tie) LAF. JEFFERSON, (8-1)
Lafayette, Indiana
Their sole loss of the year came to Hamilton Southeastern, 38-20. They're averaging a whopping 43 points per game, with sectionals beginning tomorrow against Highland.

Ross Heckber (11) is overwhelmed by Norwell tacklers. The Spartans lost the game 56-18.



Tom Gallmeyer (10)

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Boys soccer, continued from page 1B

topped it off with a back flip for a celebration.

The sectional title was important to the team because it had been a goal of theirs from the start of the year and is only Homestead's third title every.

With all of the history of being one of the top teams in the state and having many all-state players in the past, this was a special win because it further showed the improvement of the young team.

Regionals were October 11 at Carroll and the team played Snider. Snider came out with more intensity and got a goal in the first half. The team was unable to get much of an offensive attack going on the mud, rain-soaked field.

Snider scored a controversial goal part-way through the second half to make it a 2 – 0 lead. The Spartans then pushed more players into the attack in an attempt to make a thrilling late comeback. However they could not break through the Panther defense and ended with a 3 – 0 loss to end their season.

"We don't really have anyone to blame but ourselves for what happened," Lambert said. "It was a big game, and I know we were the better team but didn't show up to play that night."

Post-season awards have already begun to be handed out. Cobb and Joe Salisbury (12) both made the All-District team.

Cobb was the team's leading scorer with 25 goals, and was in the state leaders for goals. Salisbury was an important defender for the team. Lambert was awarded one of the Top Team Players in the district as well.

"Overall, it was a good season," said Lambert. "We knew we had a young and inexperienced team so it took a few games to get everyone on the same page. Everyone worked hard this year and we had a lot of players step up in big games to help us win. It was a good way to end my senior year winning a sectional title and going to regionals, but disappointing to lose."

Girls soccer, continued from page 1B

Rachel Schenk (12) heads the ball in the Penn game.

with their play to staring at a sectional loss.

In the end, the frenetic crowd could not cheer on the girls to get an equalizer, ending their season in the second round of the sectional championships.

After the game was over, it was very emotional for the team. One could clearly see that they wanted to win the game and they thought they could do it.

All were disappointed, and many of the seniors shed a tear as they realized their seasons, and careers at Homestead, had come to an early end.

"I was a little nervous and so excited before the game. I really thought we would win. After it was over it was tough trying to keep it together. We were all disappointed. Now that the season's over I don't really know what to do. I was always going to soccer practice after school and now I'm just going home," Abby Paul (10) said.

> *"I was a little nervous and so excited before the game. I really thought we would win. After it was over it was tough trying to keep it together. We were all disappointed...now I'm just going home."*
>
> **Abby Paul (10)**
> soccer player

Despite the early exit, the girls showed great improvement throughout the season, especially since there were several injuries to key players. Underclassmen were forced to step into varsity roles that they normally would not have had the opportunity to experience, especially being so young.

The team drew a very tough second-round sectional opponent and were unable to get past them.

Had they, however, gotten past the Saints, it is possible the Lady Spartans could have made another run at state, just as their predecessors in 2002.

Cross country, continued from page 1B

tunately, I can't use the excuse that I have one more year [to succeed]. It's a trap we fall into often...but this is my last chance," Schroeder said. "I think focus is one of our issues, but we definitely have the ability to make a run at state."

The girls team was led by Meghan Terrell (10), who continued her rebound after a mid-season slump and placed thirteenth with a time of 15:57, followed by Erin Blum (12) in seventeenth with a time of 16:08.

The surprising freshman Carolyn Mutton (9) was third for the team and 29th overall with a time of 16:42, Rachel Taylor (11) was 35th overall with a time of 16:51, and Erin Quinn (11) was 39th with a time of 16:59.

The girls team is trying to make it back to state after a tenth place finish in the semi-state meet last year. Last year's exit was the first time in ten years Homestead was not represented at state meet.

The teams advanced to regionals last Tuesday, October 10, with the girls team placing second at the sectional meet and the boys placing fourth at the regional meet.

Blum led the team most of the race, but ended up placing second on the team behind Terrell, who was fourteenth. Blum was fifteenth.

"It felt good leading the team. I couldn't have done it without the girls behind me pushing me, encouraging me, but it definitely felt good helping the team succeed. I just hope the season can continue after semi-state," Blum said.

Likewise, Graham led the Spartans most of the race but ended up placing second on the team behind Schroeder.

Some of the best competition in the state will be showcased at tomorrow's semi-state competition, among them, Northrop, Bishop Dwenger, Northridge, Snider, and West Noble for the boys and Concordia, Bishop Dwenger, Northridge, and Northrop for the girls.

Though neither of the teams are presently ranked in the state, both look to surprise the favorites tomorrow as several seniors fight to keep

Hockey team hits the ice

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Along with falling leaves and plunging temperatures, there is another sign of winter's arrival.

The sport of hockey, although it first came from Canada, had no official name at first. Eventually, the name hockey became commonplace.

And although no one knows where it came from, it is probably derived from the french language.

Winter is also heralded by the crunch of pads, the slap as wood connects with a puck, and the sounds of skates on ice.

The hockey team is getting its season underway and is looking forward to what they hope will be a successful year for the program.

The team has gotten off to a 1-2 start, with their lone win coming against Snider 4-3.

The team lost to Northrop 4-3 and to Carroll 6-2. Despite getting off to a somewhat shaky start early, the team remains optimistic about its prospects for the year.

"Our main goal is to try to win a city championship, and we want to do well in the city tournament," Joey Emmons (12), a captain and center of the team, said. "We also want to be competitive at the state level."

"We're definitely a good team," Sam DeStefano (11) said. "I think we can be competitive in 4A state."

The team is coached this year by Jim Glick and practices every Monday for one and a half hours and every other Tuesday for one hour at the McMillen ice rink. Practices are instrumental to the team's success.

This year's squad includes several young players, so the practice time is critical for the team to gel.

Despite being 1-2, there have been promising signs at times this year. Being a young team, there is certainly hope that, with experience, more wins will come.

"We have a very young team this year," defenseman Skyler Villers (12) said. "We are setting the foundation for the team to progress, but we're still trying to play our best and win as many games as possible."

The hockey season is just getting underway, and there are plenty of opportunities left for the team to improve its record.

The season consists of 20 league games and several non-league games, with the playoffs in late February and early March.

With some improvements, the team is confident that they can accomplish the goals which they set for this year.

Although each game is important, they are not critical until the end of the season, when postseason seeds are figured out and the quest for the city championship begins.

The team has several things they must work on, chief among them patience.

"We just need to have more patience with the puck," Villers said. "We need to see the ice better and make good passes."

"We have to work on staying out of the penalty box," DeStefano said. "There were some new rules put in this year with the officiating that we just have to get used to."

As the year gets underway for the hockey team this year, the young and talented squad looks to improve after a slow start, working toward success at the city and state level.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

When hockey was starting to emerge in Canada, it had no official name. At that time, it was referred to as Hurley, Wicket, Ricket, and Break-shins. While the exact origin is unknown, the name "hockey" might have been derived from the French word "hoquet", which means a shepherd's crook. Or it may have originated from "Hockey's Game", a workout used in Nova Scotia by Colonel Hockey to keep his troops conditioned.

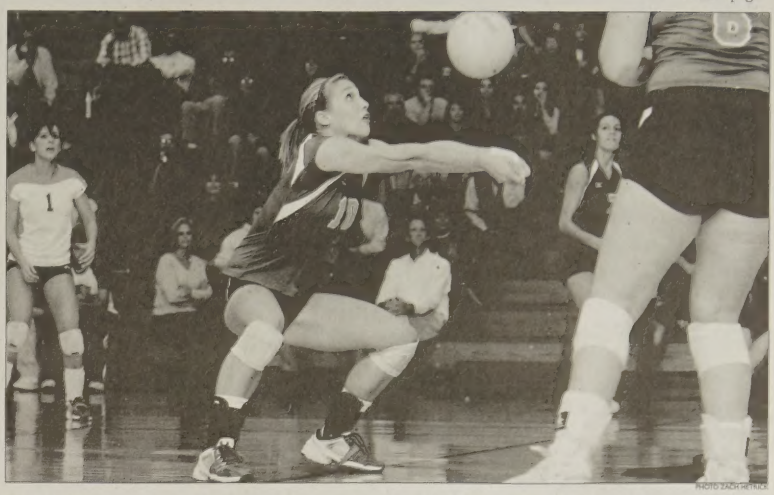


PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Taylar Meeks (10) digs for the volleyball in a recent game. Recent competition in the Penn tourney have prepared the girls for postseason play beginning tomorrow.

Feeling the intensity

Volleyball hopes using teamwork will help them advance past sectionals

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The girls volleyball team plays in sectionals on Saturday with hopes of making it to the finals.

The sectional draw took place last Monday, when the team found out that they have a first round bye and a second round match versus Snider.

Recent competition at the Penn tournament and several prior matches have prepared the girls to play well under sectional intensity. Snider, with a record of 16-7, is one of the best teams in the girls' conference.

"We have played Snider a lot. They know what we do, what plays we run. They could possible pick us apart," Melissa Gillum (12) said.

One of the problems the girls face while on the court is communication. The girls have lost several points due to miscommunication between setters and hitters, running the wrong play, or two players going for the same ball.

"Skill-wise we need to work on our passing, but as a team we need to work on talking to each other all the time and always being supportive and positive," Molly Rodenbeck (12) said.

Another area of improvement for the team is playing at a high level of intensity.

"We need to work on our defense, setting the blocks right and keeping up our energy. Against good teams like Snider, that we really want to beat, we get excited and play to the challenge. But against other teams that aren't as exciting we don't keep our energy up. We bring our level of play down," Danielle Gauthier (12), team captain, said.

Last Saturday, October 15, the team proved that they could beat one of their toughest competitors, Snider. The girls won three straight matches, against Snider, Southwood, and Portage, before losing to state sixth-ranked Penn at the Penn tournament. However, the girls were able to keep up with Penn losing by only 25-22 and 25-20.

> *"Skill-wise we need to work on our passing, but as a team we need to working on talking to each other..."*
>
> **Molly Rodenbeck (12)**
> varsity volleyball player

"Our team played really well. We won all the games in our pool and then went on to the championship versus state ranked Penn. We stayed with them really well, but they did beat us," Gillum said.

Last Thursday, the girls played in a tough match versus Leo High School. Winning the game became boost of confidence since Leo had beaten many of the teams which the Spartan have lost to.

On Wednesday, October 16, the girls lost to Northrop High School.

The girls feel that their two main competitors during sectionals will be Snider and Northrop.

The team expects to play either Huntington North or Northrop if they beat Snider.

"It might be a mental block for us, but we just really didn't have a good game [the first time against Northrop], and we should be able to beat them in three games." Gauthier said.

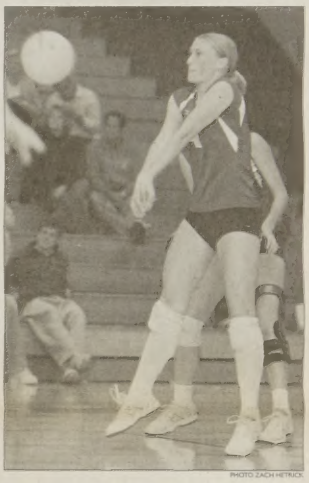


PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

At her last home volleyball game last Thursday, Anna Huguenard (12) passes the ball to a teammate on senior night.

POSTSEASON SCHEDULE

Sectionals: Saturday, Oct 21, 2006 @ South Side
Regionals: Saturday, Oct 28, 2006 @ Huntington North
State Finals: Saturday, Nov 4, 2006 @ Indy

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Sport in a much different league

Students like Jake Lemon (12) becoming more involved in growing world of fantasy football

PHOTO: MARGARET DISTLER

By Nick Arnold
Writer

Every Sunday, millions of household televisions across America are tuned to NFL games being played in every corner of the country, making it the most popular fan sport.

While some fans simply eat and drink while watching from the couch, many are keeping a constant eye on their computer screens, for they are monitoring their fantasy football teams.

The fan base for football has been directly affected by the growing number of participants in fantasy football.

Such is the case with Jacob Lemon (12), an avid participant in a fantasy football league.

"I got involved when I heard about it through my friends," said Lemon. "I kept hearing people talk about it and saw some ads online."

Lemon has been participating in Yahoo Sports Fantasy Football for four years. He is one of many students at Homestead who chose to sign-up and are now experiencing the excitement of the "sport within a sport."

The online game is free in most cases, while some leagues require a fee. Participants are given the opportunity to manage their own teams of professional football players.

Players are selected each week to, they are placed in a line-up, and their performance is based on the real-life games taking place that week.

A draft takes place at the beginning of the season where participants are allowed to pick any player currently in the NFL. Once every player is drafted, the lineup is chosen by the gamer.

"It really doesn't take a lot of time," Lemon said. "On average, I only spend around a half hour to an hour per week once the season is underway."

Lemon chooses his players based on statistics and past performance.

Many organizations, such as Yahoo Sports, keep up-to-date information available for all members in the league, allowing them to have easy access to their favorite players.

Unlike online betting for sports, fantasy leagues do not deal with favorites or lines placed on games.

Lemon is not alone participating in the leagues, for fantasy football has become a nationwide fixture.

"I would guess that fifty-percent or more of the people I know do it," Lemon said.

Along with many of his friends, Lemon plays in both a private and public league. While the private is made up of a select group of eight to ten friends, the public league includes people from all over the world.

Fantasy football has become a hobby for Lemon, one that he admits he will continue to pursue.

"It's probably something I will continue to do throughout college and beyond," he said.

The online sport involves a combination of luck and skill. Because players' teams face off head-to-head, the luck of the draw can be a determining factor when measuring success.

"You obviously have to be skilled in knowing what players to select each week," Lemon said. "You have to keep track of stats."

"But there is some luck involved; it's just like in any other sport."

Lemon tries to take luck out of the equation to the best of his ability. He usually watches all the NFL games on Sundays and scours the internet for stats and scouting reports.

Unlike the typical NFL fan, Lemon knows his football and enjoys watching it. His enthusiasm towards football rivals that of professional athletes themselves.

And yet, he's doing it just for fun.

2ND IN STATE

After defeating Floyd Central in the state semi-finals, boys tennis falls to Indianapolis Park Tudor 4-1 in the finals; Cameron Huffman (12) awarded IHSAA Mental Attitude award.

Story and photos by Suzie Reecer
Photographer

On July 31, many boys showed up to the Homestead tennis courts for their first practice of the season. It was the beginning of the most successful season of their high school tennis career, and some of the boy's last. They had no idea how this season would play out, and how they would do, but of course, they hoped for the best. Last Friday nine boys left after first period to travel down to Indianapolis for their team's last practice before the state finals began.

The boys tennis team advanced to the state finals after defeating West Lafayette (3-2) and Delta (4-1) in semi-state. Both Michael Zurcher (9) and doubles team, Danny Reecer (11) and Josh Rifkin (12) defeated their opponents in grueling three set matches against Delta. Greg Dillon (12) and doubles team Josh Butcher (12) and Geoff Norton (11) won easily. Unfortunately, Cameron Huffman (12) couldn't quite pull it out, but the Spartans still walked away with a win.

Before going into the first match in the state finals against Floyd Central, the boys had no doubt in their minds they had a chance at proceeding into the finals. Previously, Reecer and Rifkin lost to beastly Floyd Central twice. If there was anytime for them to show Floyd who was the better team, this was it.

"No one is thinking anything negative now. Everyday at school we're going through our chances and what we have to do to win and how serious we have to be to win," Reecer said before the state finals began.

In order for the Spartans to defeat the Highlanders, both doubles teams definitely had to win. After the doubles won, it would be up to the singles players whether or not they would move on to the finals against Park Tudor or Munster. All of the singles players had a chance but the team was looking to freshman, Michael Zurcher for a win.

Right when the Spartan's feet came off the white SPV and touched the Indianapolis asphalt, their mindsets changed completely. They were no longer thinking about what could happen, they were thinking about what they were going to make happen in order to come home with the first state championship in Homestead's tennis history.

The day of the matches, the Spartans warmed up then flipped a coin deciding who would win the serve. It was decided that Reecer would be the first serve of the semi-final state match.

Unfortunately, Reecer and Rifkin lost the first game but from then on they silenced the Floyd Central opponents' cheers. Right next to Rifkin and Reecer, Butcher and Norton were butchering their opponents. After Butcher put away the final overhead, the Spartans rushed the courts. Everyone was in complete shock and thrill that the Homestead tennis team once again is moving on to the State finals. Zurcher, Reecer and Rifkin, and Butcher and Norton won the three points that were necessary to move on to the state finals against Indianapolis Park Tudor.

"It feels amazing [to win state]. Everyone's really excited, and it's the best feeling in the world. I knew it would be a close match and it was amazing. There are so many fans here and it can't get any better than this. We just have to keep playing like we're playing, and if doubles keeps playing like we have been playing earlier we can win state," Butcher said after defeating Floyd Central.

Going into the match against Park Tudor, the boys were somewhat intimidated. Park Tudor finished off their regular season ranked third in Indiana whereas Homestead finished ranked twelfth. Both times Homestead played Park Tudor the lineups were different, and the Spartans lost both times.

After the team had finished up their pep talk with the coaches they stepped onto the courts for the last time of the season, and some of the boys last time in their high school career. To add to the stressful atmosphere, the stands were packed, the upper deck was loaded, and there was nowhere to walk back and forth because there were so many spectators.

All the Spartans wanted to do was come home with the first tennis state championship in Homestead's history. They've had eight runner-up finishes in the tennis history but have never pulled out a first place. Homestead also trails behind North Central for the most state finals appearances with a total of seventeen while North Central has 20.

Throughout the matches Homestead gave it their all to win, but couldn't quite pull it out, except for Greg Dillon who defeated Michael Rardon (11). Dillon beat Rardon 7-6, (7-5), 6-4. Homestead had a scare towards the end of Dillon's first set when it was time for a tiebreaker.

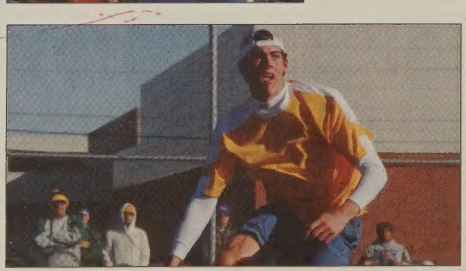
"When I got to the tiebreaker I got down because I haven't had a good record with tiebreakers, but it worked in my favor," Dillon said.

The Spartans unfortunately couldn't defeat Park Tudor, and lost 4-1.

"They were better. Second place is awesome because we weren't even sure if we would win sectionals. So we beat Canterbury. And then Southside, after they beat us last year, and we beat Delta and West Lafayette in semi-state which is huge. So we didn't even expect to get this far," Reecer said.

Cameron Huffman was awarded the IHSAA Mental Attitude award and scholarship. He was selected by his coaches and the IHSAA committee. Huffman was the team captain for the 2005 tennis team and this season's team. He was chosen as the recipient of this award because of his attitude towards his teammates and opponents, leadership, and participation as a state finalist.

Homestead still walked away with their heads held high as they remembered they finished their season earning the title of second in Indiana in 2006. This was the last tennis season for seniors Huffman, Butcher, Dillon, and Rifkin, and now they will not only graduate with a diploma but a state runner-up medal as well.



Far left: Josh Rifkin (12)
Left: Jeff Norton(12)
Below: Josh Butcher (12) Right: Greg Dillon (12)Above: Josh Butcher (12) and Danny Reecer (11)

the lineup

Cameron Huffman
number 1 singles

Greg Dillon
number 2 singles

Michael Zurcher
number 3 singles

Danny Reecer
number 1 doubles

Josh Rifkin
number 1 doubles

Josh Butcher
number 2 doubles

Geoff Norton
number 2 doubles

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homestead high school
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the spartana

At the dome

Band's season concludes with state.
See BAND on page 2, photo essay
by Kara Wall and Zach Hetrick on 8

Friday, November 10, 2006

HOMESTEAD 21, SNIDER 16

finally.

Varsity football beats rival Snider for first time in eight years

By Chris Ray
Writer

History was made when the varsity football team defeated the Snider Panthers for the first time since their state run in 1998 at the sectional championship. Tonight they'll take on the Carmel Greyhounds in regionals. *Continued on page 5*

BRIEFS

CLIMATE SURVEY

In an effort to incorporate public opinion, administrators have issued a climate survey through the district website for staff members, parents, and students. This voluntary survey asks basic questions about the SACS environment. Respondents answer multiple choice questions. Administrators hope to evaluate the district and make changes to serve district needs if necessary.

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

Students volunteered and voted at the polls Tuesday. Results from the mid-term election give Representative Mark Souder another term over Democratic challenger Dr. Tom Hayhurst. In other elections, Republican Ken Fries is county Sheriff, teacher Keith Potter was elected to the Township Board, and Democrats have now taken Indiana's House.

SEMI-FORMAL

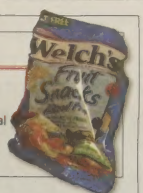
This year's semi formal dance will be held Saturday, Dec. 9 at Homestead. The dance, sponsored by student government, has a "Masquerade" theme, inspired by "Phantom of the Opera." Masks are allowed, though not required. Student government chose to host the dance at the school this year in order to spend more on decorations.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2, News: Band recap from state
PAGE 3, Opinions: Handling threats
PAGE 4, Sports: Spartans battle Carmel in regional match up
PAGE 5, Sports: Deduction costs cheerleaders at state
PAGE 6, Life: A statement from the yearbook editors
PAGE 7, Life: Purdy takes a closer look at three of the season's hottest films
PAGE 8, Photo: Band's run at the RCA Dome in photographs

BETTER CHOICE FOOD GUIDELINES

-No more than 30% of calories may come from fat
-No more than 10% of calories may come from saturated fat
-No more than 35% of the weight can be from sugars not present in natural fruits, vegetables, and dairy products
-At least 35% of foods available must qualify as better choice foods



Backroom to reopen

Popular student-government run candy store to reopen, offering healthier, approved options

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

The backroom will re-open Monday, offering a new balance of "un-nutritional" snacks with approved, nutritional ones. The student government-run room was closed since the beginning of the year when new federal and state food guidelines went into effect.

Since 1980, the number of obese teens in America has nearly tripled reaching an astonishing nine million. An additional 15% of American teens are considered "at risk" for becoming overweight. In an attempt to decrease this number, new national and state-wide

see BACKROOM on page 2

School suspends junior for poem

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

TJ Boes, a junior, wrote a poem for his English class—but he didn't receive an A or B, instead his poem cost him a day of In School Suspension (ISS). Written as an English assignment after the class studied the works of Edger Allen Poe, Boes's teacher alerted the school's threat assessment team and Boes was suspended for the poem's dark content, pending further investigation.

Boes's and his classmates' assignment consisted of writing a 10 to 15 line poem on any topic. Boes says he wrote his poem to mock poetry's over-analyzed themes. However, the sinister nature of the poem raised some school officials' eyebrows and Boes was suspended after the threat assessment team deemed him a safety hazard. The poem is written in first person and is the story of a killer who drives to a house to commit murder.

"I knew [my English teacher] would over analyze [the poem] and put meaning into it, so

see POEM on page 2

Fall play 'Arsenic and Old Lace' opens

Theater makes debut under new directorship with classic comedy, tonight's performance moved to Sunday matinee because of varsity football game

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Under the new direction of Jennifer Fisher with assistance from Math Department Head TJ McCombs, the drama department raised the curtain to a new era last night, unveiling the 2006 fall production, Arsenic and Old Lace.

The play was originally scheduled to be performed tonight, but due to the football game, that performance has been moved to Sunday. Tomorrow's performance will be as scheduled, at 8:00 p.m, while Sunday's matinee will be at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $5.00 for both shows.

The show stars Emma Farnsworth (12), Karolina Heyduk (12), Austin Hetrick (12), Meg Warner (12), Greg Kyes-Myland (11), and Carson Royer (9).

SHOWTIMES

Saturday, Nov. 11-8:00
Sunday, Nov. 12-2:00

Tickets: $5
Concessions available

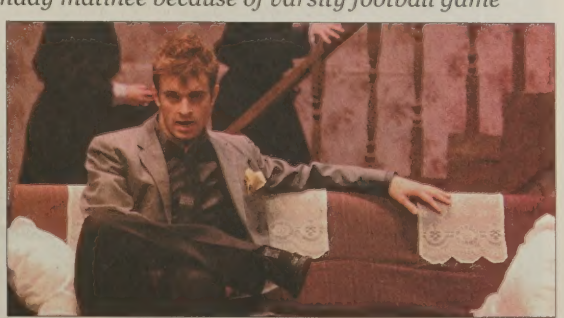


PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Jonathan Brewster, the villain in 'Arsenic and Old Lace' (played by Greg Kyes Myland (11)) in a scene from the fall play.

Originally written in 1944, Arsenic and Old Lace follows the story of Mortimer Brewster, an author and newspaperman. Brewster, who lives with his two elderly aunts, is a dramatic critic—and a straight shooter. But Mortimer is in for a massive surprise when he discovers his sweet, innocent aunts have in fact been carrying out a rash of murders—in their own home.

After killing their unsuspecting victims, the

see 'ARSENIC' on Page 2

Spartan Alliance performs at halftime, reaction to state results, successful competition season

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

Tonight's halftime performance may mark the final time the Spartan Alliance Marching Band performs their full 2006 show. If the varsity football team loses to Carmel High School, the band is not likely to perform their show again.

The Spartan Alliance ended their successful competition season with a third place finish. The band finished close behind first-place Avon High School and second-place Lawrence Central High School.

"I really felt we would have our best performance. We had practiced so hard this season and we made sure everything was as perfect as possible. There was really no doubt in my mind that we couldn't out-perform everyone else," flautist Kassie Heinzman (10) said.

All of the top the bands came within two points of each other's final scores.

"Throughout the whole season the competition had been close. I knew that it was going to be even more close at state. I pretty much expected the scores to be tight this year," Heinzman said.

While the scores from the regional qualifying competitions placed the Spartan Alliance in third place, a general consensus from the band is that one judge inaccurately scored them.

Two of the judges placed the band in first, another put them in second, then third, fourth, and the most controversial was a single seventh place score.

"I think it's unfortunate that one judge felt differently than the rest of the judging community, but it's not worth constantly dwelling on a single judge's opinion. What happens, happens," tenor saxophonist Brian Marks (12) said.

Scores are determined by the summation of individual scores from six different judges out of 100 total points for each of the ten class A bands. There is one judge for each of the scoring categories: individual visual, ensemble visual, individual music, ensemble music, general effect in music, and general effect in visual.

While one judge may have placed them with a low score, Director Steve Barber said that other judges felt differently.

"I felt that one judge may have placed us too low, but I don't think it would have put us in first place, but second. The other judges had very good things to say about the performance and general construction," Barber said.

The judge for individual movement placed the Spartan Alliance in first place, as did the judge for musical ensemble.

"I was very pleased with the high scores we received from the judges. It's always nice to get an award after working so hard through the season," Heinzman said.

The judges enjoyed the portion of the performance where the band, excepting the colorguard and drumline, got down and marched on their knees for one yard. The knee-marching was added to the performance just days before state (they were trained the Monday prior to state), so the band only had one week to perfect it.

"Trying to keep your upper body still is the hardest part about marching on your knees. Also, it was tough the first day I marched on my knees because I was a fool and forgot my knee pads," clarinet Evan Snyder (10) said.

Now that their marching season is over, concert band has begun. The students split into the concert band, which is made up of freshman and sophomores, and the symphonic band, which is made up of juniors, seniors, and freshman or sophomores who get moved up.

The band is currently engaged in working on pep band music, and they will begin symphonic band practice in a few weeks. The concert band is directed by Director Brad Wadkins while the symphonic band is directed by Barber.

"I'm excited for concert band. I find it to be a lot of fun to just concentrate on music," Marks said.

STATE RANKINGS
Class A

1. Avon
2. Lawrence Central
3. Homestead
4. Center Grove
5. Penn
6. Ben Davis
7. Castle
8. Lake Central
9. Snider
10. Carroll

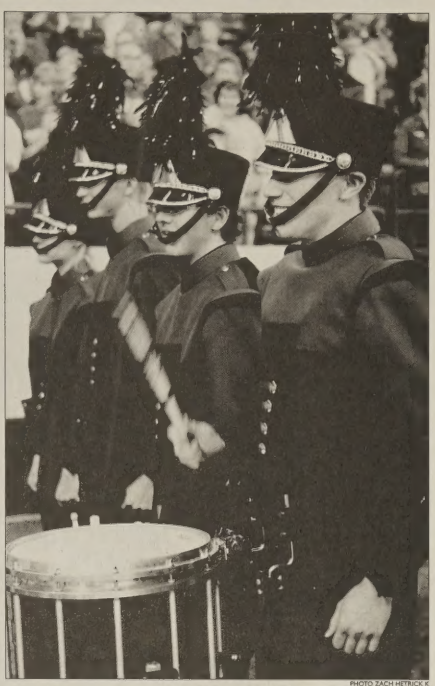


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK K

Members of the Spartan Alliance drumline performing during the state competition. The band was bested only by Avon High School and Lawrence Central High School.

Poem, continued from page 1A

I chose a simple subject," Boes said. "It looks like there would be meaning to it, but there's not."

Tuesday, Oct. 31, the night the poem was turned in, Boes's father was informed by the threat assessment team that his son was suspended from school for the following Wednesday. Officials didn't contact Boes about the meaning of his poem prior to his suspension, yet he was deemed a threat. Boes was allowed to make up work from Wednesday, but missed lectures from the day. When Boes returned to school many students were alarmed to hear his story.

"I didn't believe it happened when I heard about it," Erin Gould (11) said. "The whole situation is over the top."

Cari Landrigan (11) understands the schools concern for safety, but disagrees with the entire situation.

"I think its crazy that they can suspend a student over a poem they wrote as a assignment," Landrigan said. "And even if the poem was a threat, how is one day of OSS (Out of School Suspension) going to change his attitude?"

> "A house on a hill, shining bright/I stop, get out, I grip my knife/I feel the itch/I feel so right."
> -Excerpt from TJ Boes's (11) poem

School officials would not comment on Boes's specific case. His teacher declined to comment.

The group of officials responsible for analyzing the poem was the district's threat assessment team. The team is comprised of school officials and is derived from the crisis team. The job of the crisis team is to protect the students of Homestead and plan any safety procedures. The group was formed in 2002.

Anytime a threat is made, whether it is written, acted out, verbal, or drawn, a team of involved officials meets to analyze the situation.

"Each situation has to be taken individually," Anita Gross the school's social worker said. "When a threat is made a team of people involved in the situation meet, yes it is subjective, but it is always a group of people that make the decision."

When the group meets an administrator and counselor are present along with the involved teacher, anyone who is knowledgeable about the situation, and possibly the police, depending on the circumstances. The group then decides what is the safest way to precede by looking at past discipline records and the student's relationship in the school.

Until the decision is made, the student may be placed in In School Suspension (ISS) or OSS.

"I don't think they are really concerned about safety," Boes said. "They just want to make sure that if anything happens they won't look responsible."

STARRING

Emma Farnsworth (12)
Abby Brewster

Karolina Heyduk (12)
Martha Brewster

Austin Hetrick (12)
Mortimer Brewster

Greg Kyes (11)
Jonathan Brewster

'Arsenic,' continued from page 1A

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK K

Mortimer (played by Austin Hetrick (12)) and Elaine (Meg Warner (12)) during a rehearsal.

aunts leave the body to their nephew Teddy (who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt) to bury in their cellar. Soon, another nephew, Jonathan, returns home after years of fleeing the police for his unorthodox practice of killing people and using their faces to better his. However, the results are less than ideal, as he looks more hideous than ever before, mostly due to the ineptitude of his drunken sidekick Dr. Einstein.

As the story develops, the audience watches as the characters hilariously try to keep it together as their lives seemingly spin out of control.

Fisher sees this play as a different type of comedy.

"It does contain some dark humor… I think the best way to describe this play is it's a three-ring-circus because there are just so many things going on. There's all these crazy little things. Everyone's a character," Fisher said.

She admitted that the intricacies associated with this play were tricky to handle at first.

"One of the hardest things to do is the blocking…because there is just so much going on at once. It just goes back and forth, and I think the blocking is one of the hardest things of this show," Fisher said.

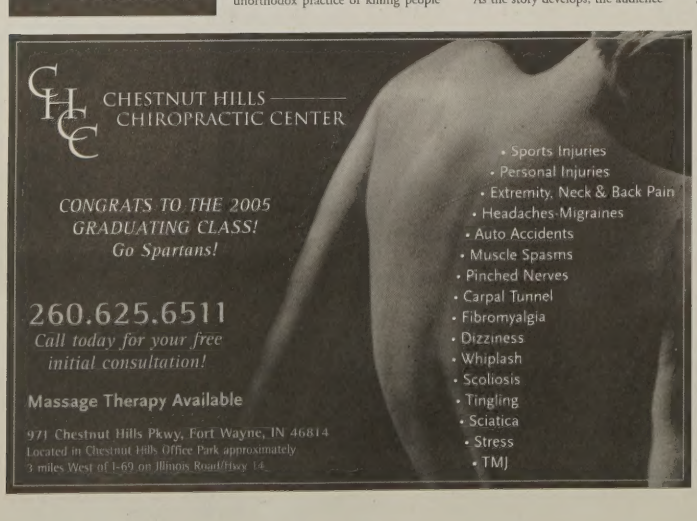
The cast does contain several underclassmen, including four freshmen. Fisher said the presence of the upperclassmen as the lead roles has done a lot to help the underclassmen adjust.

"In any sport, in any activity, having upperclassmen work with the underclassmen is always good…they are leaders for the underclassmen… I love seniors. You know, seniors are just so mature, they're well developed, I love [working with them]," Fisher said.

Fisher takes over for long-time drama director Ed Koczergo, who left following the 2005-2006 school year, leaving a significant job opening available.

"It's always going to be a difficult transition whenever anyone new takes over. It's never going to easy. Whether it was me or someone else, it was going to be difficult for everyone, no matter what. I think it is a good [drama] program here, and I want to see it continue as a good program, but with this first year it's a lot about me just getting my footing and figuring out the whole process…Whenever you start a new job, it's hard," Fisher said.

She also admitted there have been some issues with students who have not adjusted well and that she does her best to work with them.



Backroom, continued from page 1A

guidelines were set for public school food. Before closing, the backroom sold candy to students after lunch. But according to student government officials students who had previously bought this candy have simply replaced their "after lunch treat" with cookies and ice cream.

As a result, a compromise that meets the requirements of state food guidelines and the demands of SACS health officials has been reached.

The compromise means that student government must offer a healthy choice for every item deemed un-nutritional by health officials, i.e. if airheads will be sold, a granola bar must be offered so that students have the option of a healthy snack.

In addition to the candy previously sold, granola bars, animal crackers, and other snacks considered nutritional will be sold. Law mandates that 50% of the food sold needs to be a "better choice" option than the non-nutritional sweets regularly found in a school concession stand.

The requirements for a better choice food are: food must be 35% or less sugar (excluding fruit or dairy), food must be less than 30% fat, and food must be less than 10% saturated fat.

Galen Harden (12), student government executive, opposes this law.

"As a member of student government, I think the law is ridiculous, because it doesn't limit the quantity of food students buy. This law is not reducing the calories students take in, it's just forcing them to pay more."

Harden also disagrees with the fact that sugar and fat are the only factors in determining healthy and un-healthy foods. He says that although fighting teenage obesity is admirable, this method is merely shifting the problem elsewhere.

page 3
issue 5 volume 37
homestead high school
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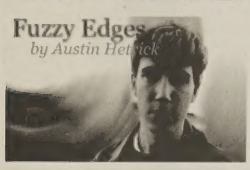
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Opinion

CSI: white buns gone missing

I hit the cafeteria the other day for the first time in a while. I ambled past the various countries (American, Mexican, Italian, Sandwich... Quick Line?) and chose my poison. I picked up a spicy chicken sandwich, something of an urban legend, really—they're supposed to be great. But the last time I had one was as a tiny underclassmen, and I was shocked to discover that much has changed in a year.

I've discovered a serious crime. It's a ridiculous one…with great risks to our saturated fat count, daily calorie intake levels and cholesterol tally. Somewhere, deep within the greasy bowels of the school's cafeteria, our once white buns have disappeared and been replaced by a brown, somewhat rubbery substitute. I consider this crime an affront to my right to be overweight, to choose my own menu of delicacy from the selection offered, and I'm determined to find out what went down.



Federal law in June 2006 declared that public school districts would have to establish wellness policies—plans to increase the promote healthy foods, curb childhood obesity, and encourage more exercise. Limited government indeed. So who's to blame? Is it the cafeteria ladies who are so patient with hundreds of students, always there with a smile each day? Certainly not. It's Uncle Sam himself.

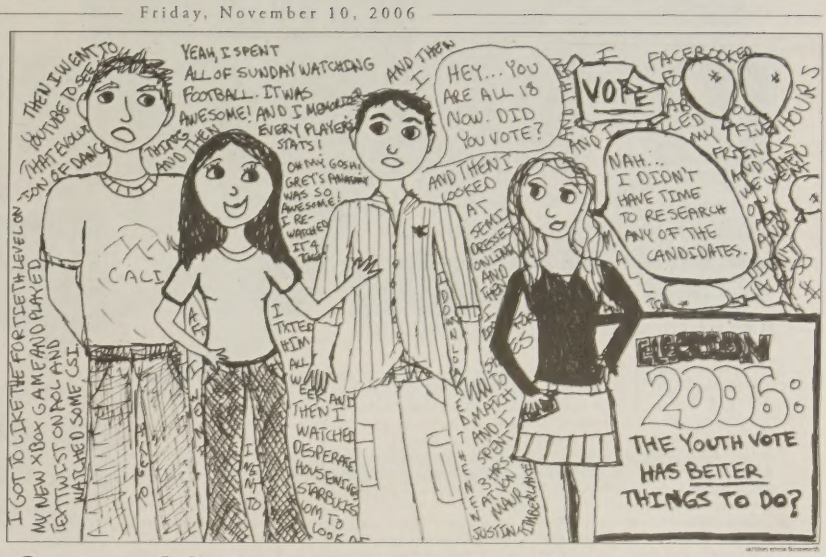
This crime is about more than white buns…it's about buns in general. Have we really gotten to the point where teenagers are so thick (pun, definitely intended) that adults must decide whether or not we can have white buns on our sandwiches? And are those same adults the ones who signed off on the rolls, fries, big-pizza-Fridays, sourdough rolls, and burritos still being served? Exactly what good was changing the buns of a few sandwiches supposed to do if you leave all those other options?

But there is definitely a point in all this fuss. High schoolers are just kids, really. We've got fragile minds incapable of grasping important choices like white or wheat. Even though we can vote, join the army, and drive three tons of polished chrome down streets crowded with people doing 70 (legally), we're not smart enough to decide whether or not to consume a white bun or a wheat one?

So what's my beef? I'm tired of adults maneuvering around students as if we don't even exist. I'm tired of schools and government that simply acts rather than inform. I'm tired of surprises.

Is it that big of a deal that we have wheat buns instead of white ones? Not really. But why not ask students what they think of the change? Why leave them completely out of the discussion? The federal and state government has been bothering educators for decades now, setting higher standards, creating more tests, and producing a lot of angst from public school teachers whose job title includes little about "wellness policies." Our own administration had little choice in the matter—they had to change the food served.

So the next time Uncle Sam comes looking for buns...tell him to lay off mine. Thanks for the concern Sam, but I like my spicy chicken sandwich the way it's always been. Let me worry about my weight, you worry about taxes...and the Middle East.


THEN I WENT TO YOUTUBE TO SEE THAT FOOLISH DANCE
YEAH, I SPENT ALL OF SUNDAY WATCHING FOOTBALL. IT WAS AWESOME! AND I MEMORIZED EVERY PLAYER'S STATS!
OH MY GOSH! GRETA'S PHOTOBOOK WAS SO AWESOME! I RE-WATCHED IT 5 TIMES!
AND THEN I
HEY... YOU ARE ALL 18 NOW. DID YOU VOTE?
VOTE
AND THEN I LOOKED AT SEARS DRESSES ONLINE AND THEN I SPENT
NAH... I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO RESEARCH ANY OF THE CANDIDATES.
I GOT TO LIKE THE FORTEENTH LEVEL ON MY NEW XBOX GAME AND PLAYED
I TATTER HIM ALL WEEK AND THEN I WATCHED DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES
I WENT TO BED AT
I WENT TO MARKET AND I SPENT
ELECTION 2006
THE YOUTH VOTE HAS BETTER THINGS TO DO?

Catch-22: how to handle threats fairly

On the front page of this paper is the story of a 16-year-old junior who was suspended for writing a poem for class. The poem, which is the story of a killer attacking people, was assigned by the teacher after TJ Boes's English class read an Edgar Allan Poe story—the "Mask of the Red Death."

The poem raised red flags with Boes's teacher, and resulted in a suspension for the student until school officials decided that Boes's actions did not constitute a serious threat to students.

When students write material that is suggestive of violence or could be interpreted as threatening, the school system is faced with a nasty catch-22. If they act on material they see as threatening, and in fact the student meant nothing by it, then they risk angry parents who ridicule the administration for being overly-reactive and overly sensitive. If the school system doesn't act, and a student carries out the threat, the consequences are even more dire.

Should schools take a preemptive measure—as administrators did in this situation—on *all* information? No. They should act with discretion, with respect for students' parents, students' right to freedom of expression, and their right to privacy.

To the editorial board, teachers play a key role in this situation. Teachers are those who must make the basic, front-line call, and to judge between a threat and art requires a teacher who knows their students well—not an administrator who's never met a child before.

It is a thin line between art and threat…and it is a dangerous line for the school to attempt to define. As Poe and other great writers and artists have shown, violence is a part of life which can be made into art just as powerful as any other—the question is, does it belong in a school?

For this particular situation, the editorial board must conclude that it does. Why hold up powerful writing such as "The Mask of the Red Death" as examples of good poetry, if similar writings are interpreted as physical threats?

We cannot assume that students will always do what is politically correct; what is acceptable to community standards is something many adhere to, but the students may not. Writing, creation in fact, is of course a subjective art—open to interpretation and to varying degrees of "acceptable" content.

The editorial board understands the difficult situation that school officials face when it comes to threatening or questionable materials produced by students. It is the most dangerous and tragic of catch 22's. Whether administrators and teachers take action or leave the situation alone, much is at stake. But we would like to encourage the school to manage situations cautiously. This can be done with a few simple guidelines:

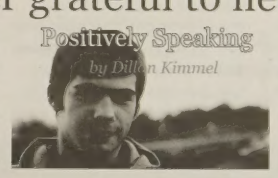
1. Maintain a degree of openness with the parents of the student under question.

2. Make sure that assignments are shaped in such a manner that questionable material isn't encouraged—as it surely was in this situation. It is unfair to expect a student to automatically match the moral expectations of a teacher (especially after showing a Poe piece to the student), because the end result is only a very mixed message.

3. Keep the teacher involved in the situation by training staff members to determine the difference between genuine art and a true threat.

By using common sense, and little discretion, it is possible to avoid another situation in which misunderstanding leads to violation of civil liberties. The line between morality and creativity can be breached, but it is with caution that this situation can be avoided.

This first-timer grateful to head to the polls



To vote is to have a voice, to openly and willingly share an opinion, to exercise an inherently patriotic right for which I am unbelievably grateful. Voting in itself is not about politics, not about the war in Iraq, immigration reform, or stem-cell research. It's about utilizing a freedom that was granted to us by our founding fathers so many years ago. But yet we all take the right to vote for granted everyday.

Go back in time 24 years to the small town of Dujail, Iraq. 148 innocent Shiite men, women, and children were systematically tortured and murdered by the now infamous dictator Saddam Hussein.

Now imagine those 148 people had a vote or, for that matter, any right at all. Imagine for a moment that come Election Day there was another name on the ballot other than Saddam's for the people to choose. Maybe Saddam would never have come to power, or if he was elected perhaps the condemned leader would have been ousted long before he had the chance to commit those despicable crimes against humanity. Perhaps those people would have been spared if they only had a voice.

Our country lags 130 others in voter turnout, among them Iceland, Somalia, Iran, and yes, Iraq. In that chaotic, war-torn country, citizens were risking their lives just venturing out of their homes, but 70% of eligible voters turned out for the country's first elections last December. Compare that to the U.S., where only 40% of eligible voters bothered heading to the polls earlier this week. By the way, there have been over 100 nationwide elections since John Hancock signed his name obnoxiously large so "fat King George can read it without his spectacles."

I believe there are several reasons Americans don't vote, but chief among them is the belief that their vote doesn't matter. Many of us have not seen a law or decision that affected our lives enough to merit going to the polls to show our displeasure or support. But go back 150 years in American history. Ask the three million African Americans who have just been freed from slavery by an elected President if they care. Abraham Lincoln was elected to office by one of the smallest margins in history. To the African Americans that he emancipated just months later, each vote meant they could finally be free. Election results have affected Americans dramatically in the past, and they will again in the future.

On Tuesday, I gladly went to the polls. I walked through the doors of my polling center, flashed my I.D. and cast my vote for the politicians and leaders I believed would best serve me. When I walked out of that polling center, I felt empowered, knowing that at just 18 years of age I could make a difference. I cast a vote in hopes that the candidates I supported would be elected and my beliefs would be carried out in Washington.

There is no vote that is larger than the rest. When Representative Mark Souder went to the polls Tuesday to undoubtedly vote for himself, he had no more say in the matter than I did. That is the beauty of our voting system. In a country where people are inevitably separated by race, age, gender, and time zone, every vote means the same on the first Tuesday in November.

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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page 4
issue 5 volume 37
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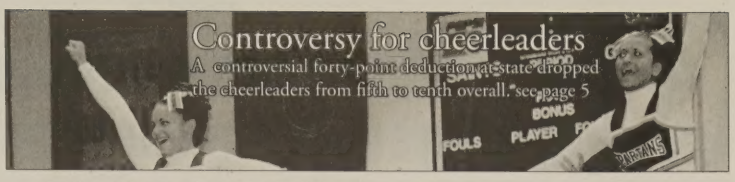
Sports


Controversy for cheerleaders
A controversial forty-point deduction at state dropped the cheerleaders from fifth to tenth overall.
see page 5

Friday, November 10, 2006

UP NEXT: CARMEL

After stunning Snider, Spartans seek first regional win since a 1998 Dome run tonight against the fourth-ranked Carmel Greyhounds

By Chris Ray
Writer

The varsity football team is looking for its first regional victory since 1998 tonight as they face the fourth-ranked Carmel Greyhounds. The Spartans and the Greyhounds are two of eight remaining teams in the 5A division who are seeking a state title.

The last time the Spartans played this late in the season ('98) they stunned Penn on the road to reach the state finals but were beaten by now-Chicago Bears quarterback Rex Grossman and Bloomington South.

Carmel, who is 10-2, has been dominant offensively and defensively. The Greyhounds are averaging 33.6 points per game compared to the Spartan's 30.2 points per game on offense.

Carmel has a big threat at running back in Aaron King, who is currently among the state leaders in rushing yards, averaging 157.6 yards per game. This is a direct result to Carmel's large offensive line, which creates gaping holes for King up the middle.

Despite the offense, which can score points in a hurry, defense may be the Greyhounds strongest point, as they are allowing only 10.1 points per game.

The Spartan defense is allowing 12.6 points per game. Carmel, who is considered to be in the "Toughest Conference in the State" held the third-ranked team in the nation, Warren Central, to only 28 points, which was the lowest point total Warren Central scored all season.

However, the Spartans are preparing for this game as best they can in order to give them a good shot at advancing to semi-state.

"We know they have some big guys up front, so we want to use our speed to counter their size. The team feels confident because they do run the same schemes as we do on defense, so we are familiar with the looks they will give us.

Right now, the coaches are looking for more tendencies that we can use to our advantage," Brian Laipple (12), defensive tackle, said.

After a solid offensive showing against Snider, in which the Spartans rushed for 227 yards, the team feels confident they will be able to pick apart the Greyhound defense. Jordan Wise also added 76 passing yards against Snider, showing that he is a threat when he has the ball.

Defensively, the Spartans dominated the Snider game up until the fourth quarter when they allowed some big plays. However, in the end, the team prevailed by stopping the Panthers on third and goal as the clock ran out. The Spartans hope to play with this kind of intensity against Carmel.

> "We know they have some big guys up front, so we want to use our speed to counter their size."
> -Brian Laipple (12)

If the Spartans do, in fact, win this game, they will face the winner of the Crown Point (12-0) and LaPorte (9-3) game. If LaPorte prevails, the semi-state game would be held at Homestead, but the team would have to travel to Crown Point should they win.

Other 5A teams still in the hunt for the state title include Evansville Reitz (9-3), Columbus North (8-4), Ben Davis (9-3), and Warren Central (12-0).

THE ROAD SO FAR

REGULAR SEASON ENDS
The Spartans lost their only regular-season game to Norwell, 56-18. The NHC championship was on the line, but Spartan turnovers led to nearly half of Norwell's points, as Norwell took the NHC crown going away. They rebounded the next week against New Haven, 35-6, to finish 8-1.

GAME 1: GOSHEN
Homestead's first sectional opponent, Goshen, was no match for the Spartan offense. Riding the arm and legs of Jordan Wise (12), the Spartans defeated Goshen 35-14 to advance to the second round. They played Warsaw, a rematch from the second week of the regular season.

GAME 2: WARSAW
In a driving rainstorm that refused to let up, the Spartans advanced to the sectional championship game against Snider by beating Warsaw 26-7. The defense smothered the Warsaw defense, while the Spartan offense did just enough to get the job done.

GAME 3: SNIDER
In dramatic fashion, the Spartans upset the Snider Panthers 21-16 for their first win against the bitter rivals since 1998. Trailing by five, the backup Snider quarterback led the Panthers down to the four-yard line, where the Spartan defense made one final stand to seal the win.

Veith, Hall, Leiendecker sign with universities

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Their college searches have spanned from the Pacific Northwest to the Appalachian Mountains to the heat of Central Texas to the heartland of Indiana. For months, state-champion pole vaulters Katie Veith (12) and Hunter Hall (12) and baseball standout Kyle Leiendecker (12) have received invitations to visit some of the best athletic programs in the country. After taking nearly a dozen trips across the country among the three of them, they recently committed to their respective universities, Veith to Texas Tech University, Hall to Virginia Tech University, and Leiendecker to Indiana University.

On Wednesday, the three athletes signed their letters of intent in front of friends, family, and press. The official signing accepted the scholarship offer from the university, making their decisions final.

Veith's choice came after visiting four universities in total: Texas Tech, Oregon, Florida State, and Arkansas.

"I knew it was Texas Tech when I got home [from the visit]," Veith said.

Veith said the coaches, among other things, attracted her to Texas Tech.

"I felt the most comfortable there. I really liked all the athletes and the coach is amazing… I really liked the campus," Veith said.

Veith is currently the number one female high-school pole vaulter in the nation, and she sees herself having a chance at an NCAA record.

"I'd want to be number one in the country. That's a given. The collegiate record is 15'1". I hope to break that my freshman or sophomore year," Veith said.

Veith admits the process of seeking out colleges was very stressful. She narrowed the search to four schools and spent the last month searching, at times missing substantial amounts of school in order to travel across the country.

"Yes, this has been very stressful. It's difficult to go somewhere new every weekend and still have to focus on school and grades. You have to make up all the stuff we missed so it's hard," Veith said.

Despite having many opportunities to look forward to in college, Veith has yet to break the female high-school record. She is looking forward to breaking that this season.

"I'm looking forward to college, but I really want the national record, so once I start vaulting again and get everything back in order, that's what I'll be primarily focusing on," Veith said.

Hall visited four schools in all: Virginia Tech, Texas Tech, Missouri, and Florida State. But he, unlike Veith, who first became interested in Texas Tech late in her search, loved what Virginia Tech had to offer long before he visited.

"…Even before visiting I was very impressed with the success of their coaches and their program…after [the visit] I was even more impressed with it. I just felt like Coach Phillips at Virginia Tech was going to be the best option," Hall said.

Hall also has lofty goals for his college career.

"If I can stay healthy…maybe someday I can be an NCAA champion and see where things go from there…NCAA champion is definitely a realistic goal," Hall said.

Staying healthy is a phrase that has tended to elude Hall throughout his high school career. He has suffered through several injuries that have affected his ability, and most recently he underwent back surgery to repair several broken bones.

"I don't know any pole vaulters who have had this surgery and come back to have a season. Luckily, with technology I'll hopefully be able to have a completely healthy, worry-free season," Hall said.

He also is very aware there is stiff competition in the state.

"I need to go into [this season] knowing there will be two underclassmen jumpers who will be very capable of jumping very high this year… I'm signed, yes, but I'm going into this season as competitive as I can be without sacrificing health," Hall said.

From left to right: Kyle Leiendecker (12), Hunter Hall (12), and Katie Veith (12) sign their letters of intent.
PHOTO KARA WALL

Like Veith and Hall, Leiendecker chose Indiana mainly because of the coaches.

"I liked the coaches a lot. They're new to IU…and came from Miami of Ohio," Leiendecker said.

He was also excited about what the coaches could do for him in the coming years. Like many college athletes, Leiendecker is hopeful to go pro after a couple years at Indiana.

"I think the coaches can get me to the major leagues…they were at Miami of Ohio and had several guys go to the major leagues," Leiendecker said.

Though Indiana's program does not have a stellar past record, Leiendecker is hopeful the program can turn around during his stay there. Though his hope now is to go to the major leagues after his junior year, Leiendecker hopes to pursue dental school if that is no longer an option.

Several schools offered Leiendecker scholarships, among them, Indiana University, LSU, Clemson, Cincinnati, Miami of Ohio, and Coastal Carolina. His only official visit was to Indiana, and he knew it was the choice for him right away.

"I knew it was the one after [the visit]," Leiendecker said.

Looking towards this year's senior season, Leiendecker seemed to feel that getting the signing over with would help him focus.

"It will take a little pressure off the baseball side. It's your junior year that you get scouted, so I was working really hard then," Leindecker said.

All three athletes will soon be moving on, and behind them will remain a decorated legacy. But they all acknowledge there is still a lot of work to be done, still one last season to conquer before moving on to another chapter in their collegiate careers.

Schroeder, Blum lead cross country

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

The cross country course adjacent to The Plex saw the Spartans scamper across it for the fourth and final time on October 21, as both the boys and girls teams failed to advance past semi-state.

On a comparatively dry day on a course that became notorious for its soggy, wet conditions in three previous meets, including the NHC conference meet and sectionals, the teams could not muster the top-five finish they needed to qualify for state, which was held October 28 in Terre Haute.

Neither team was expected to contend for the top spots in a semi-state that featured several of the top teams in the state, but they did expect to be in the top ten.

The girls managed to match last year's tenth place semi-state finish, while the boys stumbled to a fifteenth place finish. The girls team has now missed state for two consecutive years after making a record ten-straight state appearances.

Meanwhile, this was the second-straight semi-state appearance for a boys team that suffered through a streak of early sectional exits before the 2005 team upset their way through both sectionals and regionals.

In a year where neither team established a definitive lead runner, seniors Andrew Schroeder (12) and Erin Blum (12) led their respective teams in their high school swan song. Schroeder took 71st place, and Blum placed 42nd.

Colin Lyman (10), who missed both sectionals and regionals due to illness, stepped up to take second for the team and 82nd overall.

Brian Graham (11), who battled Schroeder most of the year for the number one spot, struggled throughout, taking third for the team and 88th overall.

Brandon Saalfrank (11) and the surprising freshman Donny Heath (9) finished up the scoring for the Spartans.

Meghan Terrell (10) led the girls team most of the year but battled mid-season injuries and never recovered fully to her early-season form. She ran with Blum most of the race but ended up five spots back at 47th.

Terrell noted that the intensity at semi-state far surpassed anything she had previously experienced.

"There were a hundred and some girls here and it was just amazing how many there were from the start. Usually, there [are] only about 20 or so girls in front of us but today there was a huge pack in front. It was really intense. You're trying to weave in and out of people just trying to up there," Terrell said.

Rachel Taylor (11) placed 75th, Carolyn Mutton (9) took 95th, and Erin Quinn (11) finished off a late-season surge by finishing 99th.

For seniors like Schroeder, the end of a career was bittersweet.

"It's an odd feeling being done with cross country. It's an overwhelming feeling of disappointment, but also at the same time I know there will be better things to come...Deep down inside I love it, and it's something I'm going to miss a lot," Schroeder said.

Blum, Terrell, and Quinn all gave Coach Sara Wyss credit for the team's success this year, with Blum and Quinn specifically mentioning a nickname Wyss gave the two girls mid-season.

"She calls us 'The Rocks' because we are so consistent, and you can always count on us to perform," Blum said.

Terrell said Wyss encouraged her even when she was struggling through injuries.

"She's encouraged me a lot this year just to keep going because I've been hurt a lot and she's kept pushing me to get better, and eventually I did. I'm almost back to where I was at the beginning of the year," Terrell said.

Several of the boys also showed gratitude towards Coach Dick Shenfeld and Assistant Coach Ian Wilson for their support throughout the season.

The addition of Wilson provided the team with a coach who could encourage the boys every step of the way in practice, as he ran with the team on a daily basis.

Both teams have promising talent returning next season. Varsity runners Graham, Saalfrank, Lyman, Heath, Mike Townsend (11), and Evan Hanley (10), who was shut down for the postseason with a nagging injury, will return next year to lead a boys team that looks to be ready for a run at state.

"I think working for the same goal will be one of the chief concerns for next year's team...they look state-bound," Schroeder said.

Also, the girls will return Terrell, Taylor, Mutton, Quinn, Ali Kattman (9), and Chloe Smith (9), six of the seven varsity team members.

The result looks like two teams who, on paper at least, look ready to make the next leap to the 2007 State Finals.

PHOTO PROVIDED

From left to right: Mariah Keefer (10), Ashley Hockney (11), and Jessica Ryland (11) perform during cheer state, held last Saturday, October 28.

State cheer competition marred by controversy

By Kara Hackett and Taylor Harruff
Designer and Writer

Even after enduring the pouring rain and low temperatures during the October 27 football game against Warsaw, the cheerleader's work was not complete. The following morning the girls of the varsity and JV squad had to wake up bright and early to prepare for their regional competition held later that day.

First to perform was the stunt group consisting of Jessica Ryland (11), Taylor Harruff (11), Haley Cordes (11), Caitlin Watts (11), and Megan Bulloch (12). The girls had only been practicing for little over a week, but still the routine looked promising.

"Our routine was amazing, we all were so excited about it," Caitlin Watts (11) said.

Unfortunately, a costly deduction cost the girls their bid to state the following weekend.

"It was really disappointing to not advance to state, but that's cheer leading," Haley Cordes (11) said.

Shortly after, Katie Romelfanger (12) competed in the individual competition. Although she executed her routine well, only three of the many girls who competed could advance to the state finals. Romelfanger was not one of the girls chosen to advance.

The combined efforts of the junior varsity and freshman squads brought home a third place finish and a trip to state for them.

"I personally believe we did the best we could. After all, we got into state," Jenny Caras (11).

The girls looked forward to proving their ability at the state competition.

The varsity squad, however, walked away with the first place trophy.

"Regionals couldn't have gone better. We nailed our routine and really deserved the first place finish," Jessica Ryland (11) said.

On the score sheets, the team received an average of nine out of ten for each individual category.

"It was really exciting to see how much the judges enjoyed our routine," Megan Bulloch (12) said.

The varsity squad was the only team there to have full-team round-off-back-handspring-back tucks. The girls impressed the crowd and judges with their unshakable stunts.

"Not one stunt fell, and the timing was perfect," Megan Koontz (12) said.

The team received zero deductions throughout the entire routine, which is very rare at any competition. During the awards ceremony the girls had to strenuously await the announcement of the results. When the call for second place exposed that Homestead had, in fact, taken first, the team screamed with excitement and jumped to their feet before the first place finish had even been announced.

However, the following weekend proved to be one of the biggest disappointments for both the junior varsity and varsity squads. The junior varsity team performed around noon and faced a music malfunction that cost the girls their timing and execution. The squad ended up with a ninth place finish.

"Even though our music messed up, we continued and tried our best," Kim Tyner (10) said.

The varsity squad performed around 5:00 p.m., and gave the judges a very strong performance.

"Basically, we were flawless at state. We left everything on the mat," Caitlin Watts (11) said.

There were no stunts dropped, no hands or knees down on the mat, and timing was as good as it could be. The girls were confident in a top five finish; unfortunately, the scores said otherwise. During the awards ceremony, the team was given only a participation trophy. After reviewing the score sheets, the girls noticed they received a forty-point deduction for ankle support braces, which contained metal eyelets, similar to those on tennis shoes. Had it not been for the deduction, the squad would have received fifth; however, the deduction knocked them down to tenth.

"Routine....flawless, scores however, were flaw-full," Teri Grimes (11) and Katie Yarnelle (11) said.

The girls were visibly upset with the deduction, considering they endured several minutes of inspection to prevent such penalties prior to their performance. Many saw the deduction as unreasonable because two other competing teams had identical braces, and they had neither been warned nor penalized.

"The worst part about our deduction is the fact that we and Bishop Dwenger were the only teams that got penalized, when four teams all together broke the same rule," Casey Crawford (11) said.

The squads are still unsure of the final outcome of their placing due to regional coaches protesting the deductions.

Volleyball season ends prematurely

After defeating crosstown rival Snider twice during regular season, girls volleyball goes down to Panthers in second round of sectional tourney

By Kaylin Jorgensen
Writer

The girl's volleyball season concluded on Saturday, October 21 at sectionals. During the first round of the tournament, Homestead was awarded with a bye. For the second round the team faced their rival, Snider.

"We beat Snider twice already during the season. They have always been tough competition, but going into sectionals we were really determined to beat them again," Taylar Meeks (10) said.

The ladies battled Snider for four matches. Homestead lost the first two, won the third, but lost the fourth. The girls were very disappointed because one of their season goals was to win sectionals.

"We definitely should have beaten Snider because we wanted to do well in sectionals. I will admit they were on, but we definitely had the talent to beat them," Katie Beutler (12) said.

Overall, the teams record was 20-13. As far as the season as a whole, the team members had positive opinions.

"It was neat and different to play on a higher level of competition. The team was so fun and we always had a good time," Courtney Mrowczynski (10) said.

"I think the overall season went very well. We played better as a team than ever in the past. Our coach did a great job of teaching us how to stay positive and push through the hard times. I had so much fun with my teammates," Beutler said.

This season of volleyball was completely different for many of the upperclassmen. The girls were used to the coaching style of former varsity coach, Robert Ochoa. With new coach, Lydia Gard, the ladies had to adjust what they had learned to fit Gard's needs. Gard, having former experience as a player at the University of Illinois, brought new coaching techniques to the team. They learned new drills and games that they worked on during practices. Lydia taught them proper skills and had different expectations of the girls than what Ochoa did.

"Lydia was a different coach than Robert because during tough matches she was able to keep our team focused and positive...While our season was inconsistent, Lydia helped us play better as a team throughout the season," Anna Huguenard (12) said.

Many team members enjoyed her enthusiasm and drive to push the team to succeed. Though it was her first year at Homestead, Gard gained the respect of the players.

"Coach Gard really brought a lot to Homestead volleyball. We really respect her and value what she has to say about the game. In my opinion, having her as a coach is what really made us successful. She helped us utilize our talent and pushed us to play to our highest potential," Meeks said.

Snider, continued from page 1A

After convincing wins over Goshen, 35-14, and Warsaw, 26-7, the build-up for this game was gigantic, as players and fans both anticipated the showdown against the Panthers. The team did many things to prepare for Snider, which included watching film to pick up tendencies and practicing hard.

"We noticed that Snider liked to blitz on passing downs so we did what we could in practice to prepare for that, and I think it helped during the game," Brian Laipple (12), offensive tackle, said.

By the time the third of November rolled around, the team was more than ready. The Spartans started the game looking pretty good. They marched down the field on a 90-yard drive which was capped off by a one-yard run by Jordan Wise (12). Snider answered with a field goal, making the score 7-3 after the first quarter.

The team ran into some bad luck in the second quarter, however. After causing Snider quarterback Artis Chambers to fumble the ball, it was picked up by another Snider player and returned for a 65-yard touchdown. However, the Spartans overcame the adversity and returned the favor by scoring another touchdown with 47 seconds left in the half, this time coming on a ten-yard throw from Wise to wide receiver Jordan Bunn (12). At halftime, the score was 14-10, showing the fans from both sides that this would be a hard-fought game until the end.

The third quarter began with a monstrous drive by the Spartan offense, which consumed over six minutes of clock and took 15 plays. It ended with a three-yard scamper by Jordan Wise, in which he broke several tackles before reaching the goal line.

Later in the quarter, Chambers went down with an ankle injury, which caused Snider to go to their sophomore backup quarterback Matt Elliot. This did not slow down the Panthers, who scored on a pass to make the score 21-16 after a failed two-point conversion.

After six plays from the Spartan offense, the team was forced to give the ball back to the Panthers, who started the drive at their own 20-yard line with 2:48 to go. After a few good passes and a controversial pass-interference call, the Panthers saw themselves at the Homestead 24 yard line with plenty of time left. After three plays, Snider managed to get the ball down to the ten-yard line with just over a minute to play. This was when the Spartan defense stepped up its game. After three consecutive stops, the game came down to a third and goal on the four-yard line.

"The final huddle was a blur to me. We told each other that we can't give this up. We worked too hard to lose to Snider again. Everybody had total confidence in each other," Laipple said.

Snider looked to pass but due to the smothering defense from the cornerbacks, Elliot (10) was forced to go for the touchdown on his own. However, the Spartan defenders swarmed him and Kyle Scherer (12) made the game-winning tackle.

Fans immediately stormed the field as the Spartan sideline erupted in cheers, the players holding their helmets above their heads in victory.

"Winning that game was exhilarating. The team reached our goal of defeating Snider, but we knew we couldn't be content because we had to focus on our next opponent," Laipple said.

The Carmel game tonight is at 7:00 p.m.

page 6
issue 5 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Life

PHOTO USED UNDER FREE USE LAW

Friday, November 10, 2006

CLUB BRIEFS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE
The Dave Hefner International Exchange Fund is available for financial assistance for students who are interested in the foreign exchange program. Check with Diane Rice for more details. Priority consideration is given to those students who apply in early November.

GUIDANCE
A new scholarship listing is available in the guidance office. Juniors and seniors should stop in to pick up a new sheet.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Students interested should meet in room 929 after school on Wednesday, Nov. 15th. New members are welcome.

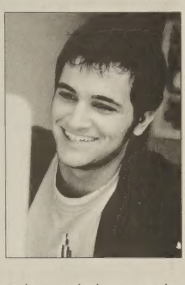
DECA
If you were unable to attend the meeting yesterday but are still interested, stop in Brian McNeal's room (523).

SPEECH AND DEBATE
Both the novice and varsity teams competed last Saturday in the Concord High School Debate. The novice debate team placed fifth with both Lee Famsworth (11) and Rahul Gupta (11) taking fifth place. Both teams will compete tomorrow at Northside and Southside on Nov. 18th.

the mystery of the yearbook REVEALED

Co-editor of the Retrospect unveils the process of making the yearbook

By Mario Baldassari
Guest Writer



"When is the yearbook coming out?" I finally have an answer to this question! The shipping date is November 18th! I hope everyone is as excited as I am; I've been asked enough times that I think everyone should be pretty pumped. I hope we can pass them out the following Monday, the 20th. But rest assured, we will make sure to make an announcement when they are here and ready.

With the release date near, I thought this would be a great time for me to tell you all a little more about the yearbook. First of all, the title of our yearbook is the Retrospect; just like the newspaper is the Spartana, we are the Retrospect. Another important fact to know is that the Retrospect, like the Spartana, is a student-produced publication. We are a staff of about 20 students who work every day to produce the yearbook at the end of the year.

During the summer before the year begins, the editors meet and work together to decide a theme for the book and make a general outline, called the "ladder." Once the ladder and the theme are set, editors begin to design the yearbook. First to be penned are the opening and closing pages, along with the pages that divide the sections of the book. Then the school year begins and the staff meets for the first time. The staff and the editors work together to design the templates that every page will be based on. After the templates are ready, we start to place pictures and write stories. Each of the 20 staffers has a spread due on about nine or ten of our twelve deadlines. This still only adds up to about 200 pages of this year's book that is currently slated for at least 264 pages. There are dividers, an opening and a closing, senior ads, regular advertisements, and the index which all make up the other 64 pages. We also cover several events that end after the school year does, such as the baseball season and graduation. Then we still have to edit. All these tasks are reasons why we need more than the school year to design, write, edit, and print the yearbook.

Each year we dedicate ourselves to making the best-looking book we can. Also, it is very important to us that we include as many people in the book as possible. We try year after year to get everyone somewhere in the yearbook. We have a folio picture down by the page number of every spread in the book, so we will be able to get in about 300 people who normally would not be in the book. We all see the football stars, the cheerleaders, the class presidents, and the club chairpersons every day. We will undoubtedly see the "famous" people in the book, but I want us to see everyone. I want to see the students who come to school, do their work, and are involved in some other activities not sanctioned by the school. I want the people who aren't everywhere else to be in the yearbook. This is why I joined the Retrospect in the first place.

I feel that the general population doesn't know enough about the yearbook or what goes into its creation, and I hope I have enlightened those who were unaware.

THE MAKING OF THE YEARBOOK

1 CHOOSING A THEME: Editors of the yearbook meet during the summer before the school year starts to decide on a theme for the book.

2 CREATING THE LADDER: Also during the summer, editors meet to determine the "ladder." The ladder of the book is basically the table of contents.

3 BEGINNING DESIGN: After the ladder and theme are decided, editors begin to design the opening, closing, and dividers.

4 STAFF MEETS: On the first day of school, the staff meets for the first time, are introduced to the ladder, and assigned pages.

5 DEADLINES, LOTS OF DEADLINES: Each staffer is assigned some of the 300 pages and have to complete them to meet nine or ten deadlines throughout the year.

6 INDEX AND SHIP: Once the final page is complete, the index is compiled and the final pages are sent to the plant for printing.

Interest in writing starts creative club

By David Greco
Writer

Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Michael Crichton share a common thread beyond being published and successful authors: they all started their writing careers in school. The Writer's Club, a new organization at Homestead, provides a place for students who want to express their ideas creatively beyond the standard scope of homework and essays.

"The Writer's Club is building a community of writers at Homestead," Scott Hill, an English teacher and the sponsor of the club, said. "Where the act of writing can be solitary, writers sometimes look to connect with other authors."

In a high school environment where homework and tests cut into a student's time, the Writer's Club aims to provide a place where students can be solely devoted to the art of writing. The plan behind the organization is to form a group of individual writers who want an audience, as well as create a collection of peer critics to help with development.

"I love creative writing and the Writer's Club is an outlet for that," Becky Katz (9) said. "I want constructive criticism from other members as well as a group that will just listen."

While young authors have trouble with developing their skills between classes and other activities, the teenage writer is often held back by a fear of harsh criticism from fellow writers.

"I think that the Writer's Club is a safe place to develop writing skills; it's more like a sanctuary," Brendan Price (9) said.

With its first meeting that was on Wednesday, Nov. 1 under the belt, and with plans to meet every Wednesday after school, the Writer's Club is an organization that is still exploring its options and getting its foundation set.

"We are going to define our goals as we go," Hill said. "The long-term goals are to get published and just write better, improve, and be open to new kinds of writing."

A current event that coincides to the start of the Writer's Club is November's National Novel Writing Month. This is a creative writing project where each participant attempts to write a 50,000-word essay by the end of the month.

The novels can be of any genre and have any theme, which allows for distinct creativity between contestants. The winners of this project are those who reach the 50,000-word mark by Nov. 30.

Several of the club members are signed up for the National Novel Writing Month and the writers plans to help those involved with critiques and suggestions during future meetings.

Still the club was created not for the Novel Writing Month but as a result of several students speaking to Hill about an interest in writing that they held outside of school.

"I had been hearing from a number of different student who wrote fiction stories in their spare time," Hill said. "Some mentioned that it would be nice to have a club."

Despite the fact that the club is just getting on its feet, Hill is

"The Writer's Club is a place to motivate and educate writers and allow them to have an audience of people who will listen," Hill said.

Teacher Submission

Jankowski - a 'scaredy' cat

English teacher writes of childhood frights, father who laughed at scary movies, his new understanding of why fear can be so funny

As Halloween approaches and people begin to decorate their yards and front doors with all kinds of ghosts, witches, and dried cornstalks, I am reminded how much I hate feeling scared. The influx of horror films at the local cinemas and the constant advertisements for haunted castles, haunted caves, and haunted corn mazes causes my stomach to react with nausea.

All this concern still does not prevent me from taking part in some kind of Halloween celebration every year, and yet I always end up regretting my decision and promising never to go to another scary movie or haunted house again.

I remember watching monster movies with my dad when I was a child. I never liked them, and I usually ended up bolting from the room or secretly crying under my covers later that night, but my father rented them again and again for us to watch. He always laughed at the scariest parts of the movies, and I could never understand why.

Years later, when "Scream" first released to video, my father rented it for us to watch. I was thirteen at the time, and I felt determined that I was old enough to have overcome my fear of scary movies.

Sure enough, after gripping the arms of the recliner in our basement while watching Drew Barrymore run from a man wielding a knife in a black cape and the now iconic Scream mask, I bolted upstairs and jumped in bed next to my mom. My father still found this funny.

By the time I was a senior and my girlfriend asked if I would go with her to the infamous haunted house in Niles, Michigan, I figured I was safe. I lead the way through the door and was promptly met by a werewolf in a dark, smoky room. Perfect! A throwback to my childhood angst! I screamed and made my girlfriend lead the way through the rest of the haunted house. What a wimp!

By the time we reached the exit (55 minutes later) I had knocked us both to the ground at the sight of a demon-monkey and had nearly caused my girlfriend to vomit by squeezing her waist so hard while we walked through the zombie room. It's amazing that

PHOTO ZACH HITRICK

relationship lasted as long as it did after that night.

By college, I had built up a defense against being scared by watching more scary movies and by getting used to sleeping alone in a dark dorm room. So when my friends wanted to go through a haunted corn maze last October, I felt ready. When we walked in, I felt my stomach drop, but my fear was soon erased when my friend Corrie started screaming at everything that moved, including corn stalks in the wind and the other people walking through the corn maze. By the time we encountered the first guy in costume, Corrie had pulled the hood on her sweatshirt over her eyes and buried her head in her boyfriend Matt's shoulder. She screamed until she cried, and I laughed until I cried, and I finally realized why my father laughed during all those scary movies we watched together—he was laughing at me. And who could blame him? I must have seemed ridiculous!

Still, I don't think anyone will find me at the haunted castle in Fort Wayne this year. I made it out of the corn maze alive last year because someone else freaked out worse than I usually do. I'm not cured of my irrational fear, and I'm not ready to be laughed at again this year, especially since now one of my students could be behind the mask that causes me to scream. I would never hear the end of it at school the next day!

tvreviews

Six Degrees

Airs: Thursdays 10:00 p.m. EST on ABC

"Six Degrees" is based on the notion of six degrees of separation and centers around the intertwined lives of six very different people living in New York who are completely oblivious to each other until chance and coincidence brings them together. Jay Hernandez plays a struggling defense attorney who develops feelings for Mae, a free-spirited woman who just moved to New York to start anew, played by Erika Christensen. Laura (Hope Davis) is an interior designer, recently widowed, and hires Mae as her nanny. Dorian Missick plays Damien, a town-car driver addicted to gambling and who is trying to lead a normal life in New York. Whitney (Bridget Moynahan) is a successful executive who has her doubts about her fiancé's loyalty. And Campbell Scott plays Steven, who snaps a photo of Laura crying over her husband, bringing him back to his old photography career. The show is reveals the small world that we live in and is a stunning drama about the connections between individuals.

Help Me Help You

Airs: Tuesdays 9:30 p.m. EST on ABC

"Help Me Help You" centers around a quirky and eccentric therapy group lead by self-obsessed psychiatrist Bill Hoffman, played by Ted Danson. They therapy group consists of patients (played by Charlie Finn, Jim Rash, Suzy Nakamura, Darlene Hunt, and Jere Burns) who need help with problems ranging from court ordered anger management to a total lack of social skills. As the group members discuss their problems, the show reinforces the characters' wacky and eccentric personalities through flashbacks of their personal experiences. The "irony" of the show is that Bill Hoffman is naive when it comes to his own troubles; he's a respected psychiatrist who fixes all of his patients' problems, but can't even work out his own. He's going through a divorce from his wife, Anne, (played by Jane Kaczmarek), and he's jealous of her new boyfriend. The series shows the humorous side of group therapy through all of the characters working out their problems - including the psychiatrist.

Bones

Airs: Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. EST on FOX

With a duo that has been compared to the X-Files' Scully and Mulder, 'Bones' continues its run this season with over thirty episodes so far. This year's second season got its grounding and inspiration from anthropologist and novelist Kath Reichs. But unlike the many crime-dramas that hog the airways, 'Bones' is less an investigation of the crimes and more of a focus on the lives and interaction of the central characters. Dr. Temperance Brennan (Emily Deschanel) works at the Jeffersonian Institution as an anthropologist. She goes by the nicknames "Bones" because of her talent for solving crimes based on the bones of victims when the police ask for her help. Her partner, FBI Special Agent Seely Booth (David Boreanaz), chooses to believe that crimes are better solved with the help of those who are living, and not their bones. This unlikely team – differing in everything from their approach to their religion – creates a drama that is both geeky and personable.

sudoku bookreviews

	7	6		3				2
1		2					3	
		9				4		1
			1		9			4
			8		4			
7			5		3			
4		5				7		
	9					8		3
3				4		5	1	

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir

by Bill Bryson

Genre: Humor/Memoir

Synopsis: A semi-autobiographical memoir, author Bill Bryson describes growing up in Midwestern America (more accurately Des Moines, Iowa) in the 1950's. His memories fill the book with many vivid and hilarious stories, including when Bryson was six years old and he found an old sweater with a thunderbolt on the front that gave him magical powers.

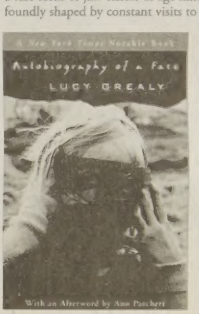
Recommended Because: The memoir gives you a glimpse back at what it was like growing up in the 1950's, and Bryson does it with utter hilarity. The laugh-out-loud book is warm and full of sarcastic comedy and wit. It's a memory-provoking read that gives a good laugh when Bryson pokes fun at everything from his old neighbor to going to the movies.

Autobiography of a Face

by Lucy Grealy

Genre: Memoir

Synopsis: Lucy Grealy's elegant and honest memoir tells the story of her lifelong struggle to love herself and discover her true beauty despite her disfigurement. Diagnosed with a rare form of jaw cancer at age nine, Grealy's life was profoundly shaped by constant visits to hospitals as she underwent chemotherapy and more than 20 reconstructive surgeries.



Recommended Because: Although a tale of survival, this book is no Chicken Soup for the Soul – Grealy's refreshing wit and candor breathe fresh life into the "triumph of the human spirit" genre. Grealy is no superhero – she overcomes many obstacles, but also falls victim to depression and loneliness.

Despite her painful life, Grealy's real beauty lies in her ability to tell an arresting and frank story, a gift far more valuable than a pretty face.

filmreviews by Chris Purdy

Flags of Our Fathers

It goes without saying that there are a lot of war films. Some are good and some are bad; but luckily, "Flags of Our Fathers" is on the 'good' list. It's definitely not one of the greatest war films ever, but it's obvious Clint Eastwood knows what he's doing when it comes to choosing a film to direct because his style and the subject matter always seem to melt together into a great piece of work. What is lacking in many modern war films is the drama and the friendships; the focus just seems to be more on brutal violence and realism than on anything else.

In "Flags," the graphic war violence is certainly present, but the focus is more on the true stories of soldiers John "Doc" Bradley (Ryan Phillippe), Rene Gagnon (Jesse Bradford), and Ira Hayes (Adam Beach), three of the six men who were forever captured in that famous photograph as they raised the flag on Iwo Jima. The story follows their travels after they get back to the United States and the emotional pain they endure as each of them recall flashbacks of the horrific battle.

The reason this film stands out among most others in the genre is its complete departure from telling the story of the fighting and instead stays with the soldiers. War isn't about shooting guns; it's about politics, unanswerable questions, and terrible losses. While "Flags of Our Fathers" illustrates all three in detail, it is not without its flaws - it tends to be long-winded - but it is still a well done and pertinent American film. *Stars Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford, and Adam Beach.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★★

Saw III

It should be noted that Saw III went before the ratings board seven times before receiving an R-rating. I have never seen anything so gory. If I were to go watch the first Saw again, I would easily see that there is not nearly as much blood, and that it is in fact more of a psychological thriller than it is a slasher. Thankfully, the writers from the first movie were back on board for the third installment, making it significantly better than the second and almost as good as the first. As always, the twists in the movie are equally as mind-boggling as its sadistic contraptions, and it would ruin the first two movies and this one as well to give anything away at all. Let's just say that Jigsaw is back at it again, and this time he has everyone – and I mean everyone – playing his game. This "game" involves a doctor who is being forced to keep him alive and a vengeful father who is seeking the killer of his son.

But Jigsaw is not a serial killer. His victims are given a chance to escape, and must overcome something to survive. But many of them lack the will to do so, which is why they are there in the first place. The acting isn't great by any stretch of the imagination, except from Tobin Bell, and there are some highly contradictory plot holes. Still, Saw III is a good installment in the franchise, and does a pretty crisp job of tying all of the films together. It is more intelligent and psychological than the second film, but it could have done without a majority of the graphic content, and still lacks much of the creativity of the original. *Stars Tobin Bell, Bahar Soomekh, Shawnee Smith, and Angus Macfadyen.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★½

The Prestige

Though it's unusual that two films with such similar premises would be released so close to each other, one will inevitably be better than the other, and "The Prestige" wins with The Illusionist coming in second. "The Prestige," rather than having one sly magician, forces the audience to keep track of two rival performers and their various tricks. Robert Angier (Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Bale) began as young amateurs with a friendship and a fun competition working for the same magician.

Sadly, Angier suffers a terrible personal loss and performing magic becomes his obsession, causing a bitter, murderous rivalry between him and Borden. For the rest of their lives, they remain enemies, never missing a chance to discover the other's secrets, outdo him, or even destroy him. Because of this, they endanger themselves and everyone around them, causing both men to slip further and further into obsession. When Angier seeks the mysterious Dr. Tesla and has him build a machine for his most famous illusion, this obsession consumes him.

Caine and Jackman in "The Prestige". All photos used under Fair Use.

There are so many unexpected twists in this film that the story is essentially told through them, making it one of the most thrilling, suspenseful movies in a long while. The direction is top notch, as expected from Christopher Nolan, and Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, and Michael Caine all give great performances. Scarlett Johansson, who should have had a bigger role, is nice as well, and even David Bowie was good as Tesla. This is a fantastic turn-of-the-century thriller and should not be missed. *Stars Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, and Scarlett Johansson.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★★½

Borat!

This film is probably one of the funniest movies ever made, but beware: it is racist, prejudiced, cruel, vulgar, raunchy, and just about everything else. This, along with much sexual content and nudity, makes Borat a film just for those who are old enough to see a well-deserved R-rated movie. The title character offends just about every single stereotype imaginable during his trek across the USA, but does so with such tongue-in-cheek precision and perfect comedic timing that it's hard for anyone not to laugh. If you understand that this is a scathing social commentary on the US and on our views of the Middle East, then you'll love how smart – and how dumb – this movie.

Borat Sagdiyev, a journalist from Kazakhstan, has been sent by his country to make a documentary about America so that they can learn from our customs. When he turns on his hotel room television, though, he falls in love with Pamela Anderson on Baywatch and from then on has no goal other than to get to California to marry her. Another thing that makes this political satire fun is trying to discern between staged and candid scenes. On his journey, Borat meets all sorts of different people, the least respectable of which actually turn out to be decent people, while the supposedly more "cultured" people aren't any better than our foreign friend. The message this film is trying to get across is that bigotry, by its very nature, is foolish, and those who practice it to act higher than others end up being the ones who look stupid. *Stars Sacha Baron Cohen, Ken Davitian, and Pamela Anderson.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★★½

1.

2.

3.

Eye Contact: Band State Photos by Zach Hetrick and Kara Wall

After weeks of practice, the members of the Spartan Alliance Marching Band experienced the unique feeling of

performing in the dome

4.

State 2006

Saturday, October 21st

1. Drum Major Liz Kitto (12) conducts the band during the third piece. Kitto attended a one week camp with the three other drum majors where they learned how to lead the band and practiced conducting. 2. Band members Indy Singh (9), Sarah Boeckman (11), and Shelby Nichter (10) have their flutes in tow. 3. Anna Rodenbeck (12) plays the mellophone during her last band state performance. 4. Members of the guard flash their biggest smiles as they throw flags into the air. 5. Dante Galucci (12) sets the beat for the rest of the band to start their eight minute show. 6. With flowers in hand, Sara Nettleton (10) laughs after finishing the performance. 7. Steve Barber celebrates the band's accomplishments with a band member. 8. Guard members comforting one other with hugs after the places were announced. 9. Drum Majors Vasundhara Bhargava (11), Liz Kitto (12), Ally Uhey (12), and Ben Nichter (12) carry the trophy off the field after being awarded third place.

5.

9.

8.

7.

6.

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fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

FACES OF THE RAMP PAGE 8
a photo essay by zach hetrick

Friday, December 1, 2006

A SCHOOL DIVIDED: CLIQUES

By Erin Quinn and Austin Hetrick
Writer and Executive Editor

In more than 2,500 schools across the country last week, for a day, something very odd was going on. Everything was turned upside down: "jocks" sat next to "goths," preppy students ate with grungy ones.

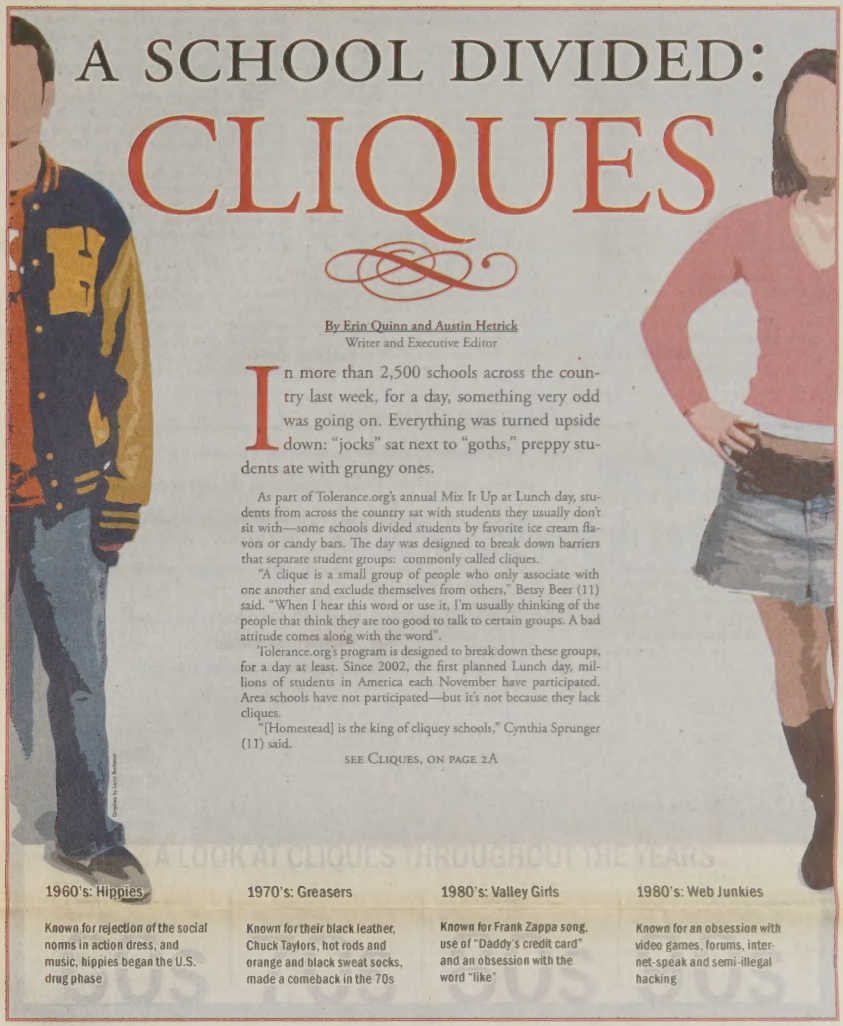
As part of Tolerance.org's annual Mix It Up at Lunch day, students from across the country sat with students they usually don't sit with—some schools divided students by favorite ice cream flavors or candy bars. The day was designed to break down barriers that separate student groups: commonly called cliques.

"A clique is a small group of people who only associate with one another and exclude themselves from others," Betsy Beer (11) said. "When I hear this word or use it, I'm usually thinking of the people that think they are too good to talk to certain groups. A bad attitude comes along with the word".

Tolerance.org's program is designed to break down these groups, for a day at least. Since 2002, the first planned Lunch day, millions of students in America each November have participated. Area schools have not participated—but it's not because they lack cliques.

"[Homestead] is the king of cliquey schools," Cynthia Sprunger (11) said.

see CLIQUES, on page 2A



A LOOK AT CLIQUES THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

1960's: Hippies
Known for rejection of the social norms in action dress, and music, hippies began the U.S. drug phase

1970's: Greasers
Known for their black leather, Chuck Taylors, hot rods and orange and black sweat socks, made a comeback in the 70s

1980's: Valley Girls
Known for Frank Zappa song, use of "Daddy's credit card" and an obsession with the word "like"

1980's: Web Junkies
Known for an obsession with video games, forums, internet-speak and semi-illegal hacking

Results of survey not available for student viewing

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

Circle the bubble that applies, darken appropriately, and erase all marks completely. Students have all heard the instructions thousands of times before on standardized tests and classroom exams, but last spring the bubbles were filled for a survey that has little to do with academics. The drug survey, administered by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC), has been used as an indicator in state and district drug prevention programs for the past nine years, but this is one test students will never see the results of—that information remains privileged from students.

"I want to see what the answers are," Alex Tordi (11) said. "I think we should be able to see the results for a survey [students] did."

The survey is designed to assess students' use of illegal substances. Every three years since 1997, the survey is administered to students from the sixth grade all the way to high school seniors by the IPRC. Established in 1987 and based out of Indiana University's School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, the IPRC is "Indiana's primary source for alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention resources," according to the program's web site. Schools across the state use the survey to assess the success of prevention and intervention programs. The School of Health does not publish more than one copy of the report and phone calls were not immediately returned.

"We did report [the results] to the school board," district Social Worker Anita Gross said. "But [we did not release] the actual group of data. It's a research project, and research you don't typically release to the public. We do reports about it. It sort of gives us a reading if things are being effective, what's not being effective, and whether we need to tweak what we're doing."

A federal grant given to Indiana University funds the survey, but the survey itself is used to evaluate the grant for the drug tests.

see SURVEY, on page 2A

BRIEFS

MOAKE TO STAY

Dianne Moake will continue as principal for the remainder of the school year. While she announced that she would be leaving her position last year she has remained in her position while the district searches for her replacement. As the title calls for a special license, fewer people are taking the time to gain the qualifications necessary for the job. A national search firm has been enlisted to find a replacement.

CAFETERIA EXPANSION

Plans for the expansion of the cafeteria have recently been approved by the school board. The expansion calls for additional seating and two new serving lines. Additions are in order to reduce the issues with overcrowding with the current set up. The two new lunch lines will help lower the time students are waiting in lines for their food. The board decided against adding another lunch module or reopening the cafeteria in Woodside.

NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Several senior inductees and over 100 junior inductees were invited to the National Honors Society on Nov. 15. The ceremony was held in the Auditorium and refreshments were served afterward in the cafeteria. Members are required to have a minimum of a 10.0 GPA. Once inducted, they must also serve a minimum of five hours of community service.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: Blueprints from cafeteria expansion; three new lines proposed
PAGE 3A, Opinions: Positively Speaking- Explaining the rise of opt-outs
PAGE 4A, Life: A preview of semi-formal this year hosted in the auxiliary gym
PAGE 5A, Life: Spanish club finds culture, lends helping hands
PAGE 6A, Life: Review of 'My Chemical Romance's' latest offering
PAGE 7A, Life: Review of *Casino Royale*
PAGE 8A, Photo: Faces of the Ramp
PAGE 1B, Sports: Girls basketball has slow start to season
PAGE 2B, Sports: Football ends season
PAGE 3B, Sports: Wrestling destroys Dekalb
PAGE 4B, Sports: Fall sports re-cap

'We the People' class heads to state

After second place finish last year, students hope to take the last step up

By David Greco
Writer

As Congress heads into a recess, We the People hearings in our state capital are just beginning. After having started the preparations for the competitions at the beginning of the school year, the Homestead We the People team recently won their first competition and are headed for state.

The district We the People competition was held at the Chapel Nov. 9. The team won in all "units" (specific areas of presentation) except for one, and by beating Fairfield High School, the team is on its way to state competition in Indianapolis on Dec. 12. At state competition there will be two rounds of competition, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, and the team will be competing against 11 other schools from across the state.

"I think we will do well," Rahul Gupta (11) said. "We are well-prepared and know the material."

Each unit practices each round before the competition to increase the knowledge of the material. Teachers and administrators guest judge for the We the People students in order to prepare them for actual competition. Besides being a class that competes in We the People competitions, the Honors U.S. Government class is paired with AP U.S. Gov

see STATE, on page 2A

Students in Keith Potter's 'We the People' class present their unit presentations to sit-in judges (teachers and administrators) as practice Wednesday.

Dropouts redefined

GED recipients, special education no longer qualify under law as graduates

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) will see a decrease in the number of graduates for the class of 2006 following a state mandate placing stricter guidelines on the definition of a graduate. The new regulations, which label GED recipients, students who complete a special education certificate, and five-year graduates as dropouts, have caused graduation rates across the state to plummet.

Prior to the new guidelines, Indiana reported a 90% graduation rate for the class of 2005. However, using the new standards, the state recently reported three out of four students who began high school in 2002 are to be labeled as graduates, 15% lower than a year ago, mainly due to the state's new mandate. Official graduation numbers for SACS under the new guidelines will not be released until the state has gone through all the data.

However, administrators expect the numbers to fall slightly, but not as far as the state's has. Last year, SACS reported a graduation rate of 96%, and Principal Dianne Moake said the estimated graduation rate for the class of 2006 is 92.3%.

"In the past, if a student went to Homestead and got a GED within the year then we didn't count them as a dropout. Kids that were not on a diploma track anyway and were working towards a certificate towards Special Ed

see DROPOUTS, on page 2A

DEFINITION OF DROPOUT
(FOLLOWING STATE CHANGES)

With new state definitions of "dropouts," GED recipients, those working towards a Special Ed. completion certificate, and those that take longer than eight semesters to receive a diploma are not considered graduates by the state.

Cliques, continued from page 1A

Students say obvious cliques include jocks, cheerleaders, nerds, skaters, "goth," "the popular ones," loners, artsy people, musical types, and grunge.

As defined by Tolerance.org, a clique is more than just a word, a clique can be five people, or twenty or more. Usually, members dress, talk, and think alike, but not always.

Tolerance.org and some students agree that many form stereotypical opinions about these cliques.

"I do stereotype people unintentionally, I think we all do," Ann Cutaia (10) said. "I try hard not to judge them."

The lines between cliques are often blurred. When cliques are composed of good friends, it becomes less of an exclusive clique and more of a group of friends. Still, some students feel that cliques limit the group of people available for socializing with.

"People want to be around people they have things in common with, but that doesn't mean you can't get to know people from other cliques," Spencier Lehman (11) said. "You just might have something in common with them, too. I think it is natural for people to tend to stay in a certain familiar group, but for others to label them, that is a fault of society."

Another trait of cliques at school are the restrictions they can place upon those involved in them.

"There are boundaries [involved with relationships]. A person would be completely ostracized by their other friends [for some relationships]," Beer said. "I don't think these boundaries are right, but that's just the way it is."

Pressures on how to dress and act found in cliques make some students view cliques as conformist.

"I think it's absurd who gets to decide what is okay to wear and how you should do it," Lehman said. "Everyone would be the same then, you would have no diversity…people are different for a reason".

Cliques are not always the scapegoat for all of a high school students issues. Pre-calculus and algebra teacher Mike Lough doesn't approve of cliques.

"I think a clique is okay, as long as I'm involved; but if I'm not, cliques are for weak people who want to exclude others, which I don't like," Lough said.

As students have gotten older they begin to recognize the barriers between them more. With age, some students have also tried to break those barriers that separate them, and the cliques themselves, down.

"I think the older I get and the more I learn, I become more tolerant of others and have learned to meet new people and branch out," Beer said. "I'm starting to realize that regardless of how you dress, act, or think you need to be yourself and if people aren't going to like you for it, that's okay."

Online cliques on the rise

According to the Washington Post, some 45 million Americans 10-17 are online, spending hours online each night at their computers.

Because of new several technologies: instant messages, email and profile web sites such as Myspace.com and Facebook.com, students can instantly communicate about one another, and more easily promote the rumors and hurtful messages which make cliques and high school difficult to handle for some students who engange in them.

"For the most part I think online sites like Facebook or Myspace are pretty good for teens," Katie Romelfanger (12) said.

"They allow people to keep in touch with their friends no matter where they are in the country, friends from college, friends from projects, that kind of thing. They also save a lot of phone minutes and make it easy for kids to organize parties."

According to an article written by Daniel Terdiman for Wired magazine, "Cliques are a developing trend in online communities in which someone builds a site focused on, say, anime, chocolate, *Moulin Rouge*, or any other topic.

Owners then accepts applications from others with like-minded, well-designed sites who want to join the clique. The owner sets rules and conditions for membership and then provides links to all the approved member sites. Those who don't belong in the group don't receive messages.

"Sites can support rumors or things like that," Romelfanger said. "I think overall they're pretty useful, but they can be as bad as in school...I think kids are going to do that online or at school.

Clay Shirky, an adjunct professor in interactive telecommunications at New York University believes cliques are representative of traditional popularity patterns and that the online community is just an extension of regular behavior that kids show.

It's "we have to want you to be a member as much as you want to be a member, perhaps more," he said in an interview for Wired.

Shirky also believes that for those who join, online cliques do provide what many crave these days: meaningful social interaction. They "bring human scale back to the web's otherwise inhuman connectedness," Shirky said.

CLIQUES CONTINUE ONLINE

My Space

A social networking web site which includes personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music, and videos. Myspace is the world' fourth most popular English web site, and the sixth most popular in the world. The site includes a 'Groups' feature which allows users to form an exclusive group page and message board.

Facebook

A second social networking web site serving high school, college, corporate, military, and geographic communities primarily in English speaking countries. Facebook allows users to create impromptu groups which they control and name; they can also have a home page for their clubs.

NATIONAL 'MIX IT UP' DAY

Hosted by tolerance.org-a project of the southern poverty law center

Held Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006 - 2,500 schools from across the country participate every year

"Mix It Up at Lunch Day encourages people to cross lines and meet new people."

70% of students named the cafeteria as the school setting where social boundaries are most clearly drawn

50%+ More than half of students describe their schools as "quick to put people into categories"

40% of students admitted that they had rejected some from another group

Survey, continued from page 1A

As of now, Gross does not plan to release the results.

Survey to Continue in 2007

That the results of the survey are being used seriously by the district to determine prevention programs—including, to an extent, the implementation of drug testing—makes some students question whether a survey is the best method.

"I think that the school should observe more, go to the games in the student section," Julia Springer (12) said. "If they would observe more rather than testing, they would get a better outcome. Taking a survey doesn't mean anything."

> *"It was agreed we would do it for three years so we would have more long term data to determines if [drug testing] is an effective program or not."*
>
> Anita Gross
> SACS Social Worker

The survey consists of questions related to alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use, hard drugs, and the occurrence of gambling. Students admit that they don't always take it seriously.

"I talked to some people and they put the most ridiculous answers," Alex Tordi (11) said. "I think some people take it seriously, but I think they're probably better ways to see what the trends are. If people know it's going to be anonymous, people are just going to goof off."

To safeguard against fraudulent results, the survey has built-in safeguards, including an option at the end where students can indicate whether the response is truthful.

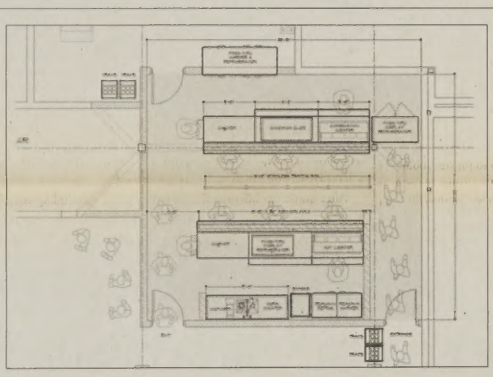
"We're looking for trends," Gross said. "We've done a survey since 1997. My guess is that in '97 there were some kids who didn't take it seriously, in 2000 there were, in 2003, and again in 2006."

Because SACS is not looking at specific numbers but instead watching the overall picture, the conclusion was the district's rates of use of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco are above national and state averages.

"It tells us that there needs to be something different happening. That was when the NAND [No Alcohol No Drugs] task force started, which worked on parent education and the SADD [Students Against Destructive Decisions] group," Gross said. "A part of that was student drug testing, one part of that is the program with Hunter. Those are all pieces of the larger program, and yes, it was in response to that continuing trend that we had numbers that were above state and national averages."

The survey will be taken again this year. The goal is to get enough data to analyze existing programs.

"We need to have more data to look at—that was why the drug testing program was started by the school board," Gross said. "It was agreed we would do it for three years so we would have more long term data to determines if [drug testing] is an effective program or not."



CAFETERIA EXPANSION

With the addition of three new lunch lines, administrators hope to cut down on the time students take waiting in line.
The food to be served in each line is undetermined as of now. Expansion prices should range in the hundreds of thousands.

PHOTO COURTESY HOAKE PARK

Dropouts, continued from page 1A

were not considered dropouts, so I think the factors that were changed will result in our graduation rate changing some, but I don't think it will be dramatic," SACS Social Worker Anita Gross said.

Gross believes SACS' small change in graduation rate is mainly due to good record-keeping and motivated students.

"I think because we kept very good record-keeping before that it will not affect us that much, but I also think we have a population that are high achievers," Gross said.

Gross also said SACS has done an excellent job of keeping track of its students.

"I think we've also been very careful tracking [students.] If kids move in the summer and we never hear from them then we go ahead and report them as no-show dropouts, while I think some other people don't because they figure they've gone somewhere else and enrolled…We know for sure they're in school," Gross said.

Gross credited the good record-keeping to SACS Registrar Phyllis Nelson, who is in charge of tracking and record-keeping for graduation rates in the district.

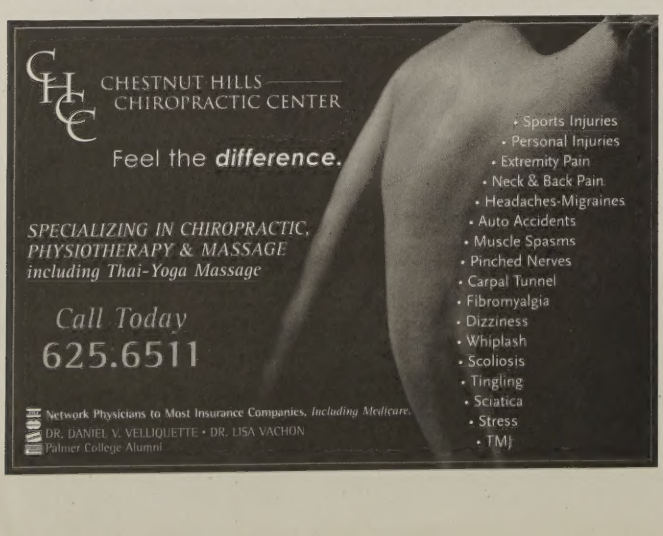
The change has sparked some controversy, especially among schools with a large amount of students working towards a GED.

These schools will most likely see their graduation rates drop substantially. Gross sees the mandate as necessary but does not agree with certain aspects of it.

"With No Child Left Behind there's a lot more challenges... I think it was appropriate for the state to come up with a clearer way of tracking students…. I think it is not appropriate to not count special Ed kids who are never on a diploma track as dropouts. That doesn't make sense to me. They completed what was their education program, and I think that ought to be counted as a completion of a program. Maybe their intention was to discount special ed student but sometimes I think there are laws written and there are unintended outcomes," Gross said.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) does encourage schools to improve their graduation rates, but it does not threaten sanctions against schools that do not. Therefore, for the most part, Indiana's change will most likely not affect a school's status with NCLB.

Despite the state making changes to the definition of a graduate, Gross ensures that students will still have the same opportunity to get a GED, special education certificate, and five-year diploma.



State, continued from page 1A

ernment during second semester. Keith Potter is the instructor.

"This is the first year that We the People students are required to take AP U.S. Government second semester," Potter said.

Last year's We the People team finished third in the state, and the team generally places in the top five or six teams.

"It's a tough competition but if we work hard, we can be a threat to win," Potter said.

Organized in the format of a congressional hearing, We the People helps educate students on the history and procedure of government.

"It's an interactive way to get involved and informed about government issues," Rahul Gupta (11) said.

Students in Potter's Honors U.S. Government class spend We the People practice each day in class reviewing essays and going over reference materials. This year marks the tenth year Potter has been coaching students in the competition. Some students, who participated in middle school, take it because of past experience with it.

"I did [We the People] in middle school and thought it was interesting, so I decided to do it in high school," Seely said.

The fundamentals of We the People are to promote civic competence and responsibility among high school students in the U.S.

"It gives a good background on the Constitution and what it evolved from," Chase Seely (11) said.

The students in the class are divided into six units, which is how the textbook is set up, in which the unit members must answer and prepare responses to inquiring on two out of three questions provided. The students must give a two-minute presentation on which they are judged by the delivery and content of their speech.

The number of students participating in the team varies from year to year, as last year's team had a total of 26 students while this year there are 16 current members.

page 3A
issue 6 volume 37
homestead high school
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fort wayne, indiana 46814

Opinion

Eye on Hollywood

Fuzzy Edges: by Austin Hetrick

Last Saturday, having cut through the throng of frozen shoppers, my date and I made our way to the newest installment of my favorite movie franchise—James Bond in Casino Royale. Pierce Brosnan, my favorite Bond, was being replaced, so as the movie started I skeptically settled in for a dose of Hollywood mayhem. Halfway through the first scene the villain made his way on screen: a slick-looking foreigner with a bad case of cataract and a nasty looking eye injury. Now most film-goers weren't bothered when this ocularly-challenged villain arrived, but I was.

Most people don't give villains with eye problems a second thought, but for of us in the exclusive one-eyed club, this is crap. I've had enough of this...I'm pretty sure I speak for the rest of the one-eyed community when I repeat the illustrious words of Dangerfield: "I get no respect." What's Hollywood got against people with one eye? Did Colombo tick them off with his detective shtick?

You see, this stereotype has been in existence for decades. To truly grasp the prejudice dominating the industry, let's take a close look at one-eyed villains in history. As far as Hollywood is concerned the campaign against my people started back in 1961 in the most innocent of forms: a cartoon. That's right, when everyone else was chuckling at Bullwinkle's idiocy the producers were busy making insinuations with Fearless Leader, the one-eyed leader of the Commies. But that innocuous cartoon was only the beginning.

In 1967 Ernst Stavro Blofeld—the pale guy with the cat...and the scar on the eye of course—started the Bond series prejudice. With my limited knowledge of the 70's and 80's I can't name any one-eyed villains in those decades, but no doubt they're there. 'Number 2' in Austin Powers, besides lacking a real name, is also short an eye. Mad Eye Moody in the most recent Harry Potter film was of course, the unfortunate bearer of a mad eye. Scar in Lion King had a scar...on his eye. In Pirates of the Caribbean there were pirates with missing legs, hands,...eyes. Then there's that Sauron fellow with...one 'flame wreathed' eye.

See my point here is that this is a vendetta. What is it about the vision impaired that frightens everybody? Loss of depth perception? Eye patch? What is so sinister about that? For that matter, why are villains stereotyped at all? Albinos, robots, one-armed, and midgets have all received a bad wrap.

All right, enough of my rant. I want my measure of justice, and Hollywood probably wants to sell tickets. But next time you're watching some villainous fellow stroke his cat...make sure he's got 'em both open.

OSS presents false logic

A sanction is a type of punishment serving to reprimand an individual or organization for a wrong that was committed. Under the Southwest Allen County School (SACS) policy, the administering of the most severe sanctions, including out of school suspensions (OSS), has come under scrutiny once again as student continue to spend punishments out of school.

The Editorial Board has come to the conclusion that the SACS OSS policy is hypocritical and does not serve as a proper sanction. In addition, we believe that the OSS policy makes little effort towards remediation of students and constitutes an unfair punishment.

Take, for example, a student who simply does not care about school, and, as a result, skips school one day. The student is reprimanded with a Saturday school, which he also fails to attend.

After numerous offenses, the student is given an Out of School suspension – his sanction as mandated by the SACS administrative policy. This student who did not want to attend school in the first place is given a supposed "sanction," which inadvertently rewards him with a day off from school.

Not only is a sanction not delivered, but the student is instead given a reward. The student receives what he wanted in the first place: time out of school. A sanction? The Editorial Board doesn't believe it is. The district's intent is to punish students' grades and to make parents more aware of an infraction but this punishment is nonsensical.

While this flaw in the OSS policy is enough to require change, the policy is further flawed because it does not promote remediation efforts. A key part of any juvenile program is to promote remediation—to help correct a problem rather than simple punishment.

When students are given an OSS for a policy they have violated, they remain out of school for the duration of their OSS. Any class work that the student misses becomes a zero in the grade book, including tests. Teachers also have the option of giving the student a zero on any homework the student misses.

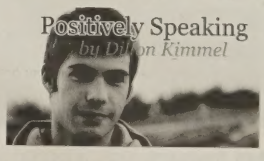
While a punishment is given to the student, the question of whether this punishment is fair and necessary arises. A student who receives a "C" in a class after working hard and trying his best is actually learning something from that class. However, if this student is given an OSS and zeros are put in the grade book, the student's grade in that class will become much lower.

He now has no motivation to work harder and a careless attitude towards school will develop due to the fact that the student simply does not feel that this grade can be improved.

The OSS policy is fully at blame for this scenario. And contrary to popular belief, this scenario is becoming more and more frequent. The current provisions do not solve any problems, only provoke them. The idea of remediation is abandoned, and sanctions are not currently administered.

Thus the editorial board suggests the abandonment of OSS as punishment. We suggest instead that the school focus on In School Suspensions (ISS), which will allow students to make up missed work while simultaneously punishing the student for an infraction. Degrees of punishment for any district is a difficult question—and one which needs revision here.

Increase in military opt-outs hardly surprising



It's no secret Homestead boasts some of the best graduation statistics in the state, with somewhere between 96% and 98% of this year's graduating class set to collect a diploma in June. Equally impressive is the rate at which Homestead students go on to college. In 2005, 90% of the senior class went on to a college institution of some kind. The state average is a shade over 70%. But so many students pursuing a college education often leaves few students left to represent Homestead in the military.

The 2001 No Child Left Behind act requires public high schools across the country allow students to opt-out of having their addresses, phone numbers, and other personal information given to the military.

Allen County recently reported a drop in opt-outs this year, but the number of opt-outs at Homestead has skyrocketed, with 984 juniors and seniors signing the necessary paperwork to have their names removed from military contact sheets. That's up 67% from last year's 660. In fact, almost two thirds of the county's opt-outs came from Homestead.

In an article run by The Journal Gazette last week titled "Uncle Sam sees decline in opt-outs," Principal Dianne Moake was asked why Homestead's numbers are so high. She didn't seem to have much of an answer, saying the school had never had such high numbers before this year.

In fact, no one seemed to have an answer to the drastic change, no one except Janet Mitchell, member of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Associated Churches. She claims that Homestead simply does a better job of informing its students of the opt-out forms, and other schools that aren't informing their students are violating those students' "civil right" to opt-out.

Civil right? Our civil right to avoid annoying dinner time phone calls and lots of cluttering mail from college recruiters? No, I'd use a different word; how about our inconvenience. It's violating our right to not be bothered, yeah, but not a "civil right." Failing to sign an opt-out doesn't save a spot in boot camp. It's simply a student saying he isn't interested in military service and doesn't want to be contacted about it.

Only 30 Homestead juniors and seniors allowed their names to remain on the military's contact list, so it is obvious most of us aren't interested. The question we should be asking is this: why are so many students all of a sudden uninterested in the military?

The answer is a relatively simple one: we don't like war. Recently, the word "military" has become synonymous with the word "Iraq," mainly because the media portrays it that way. Many of us have a general interest in the military. We like the concept of serving our country, and many of us find the military's promise to provide a college education to those that serve very appealing. But when a war comes along, those that are simply interested seem to change their tunes. It's the ones that are truly passionate about the military that continue pursue it.

Take Ron Brown (06) and Gary Huber (06) for instance. Seniors last year, they bypassed college and joined the Marines, almost assuring themselves of a deployment to Iraq once their Basic Training was completed. Why did they do it? Because they cared deeply enough about the Marines that a war, and possible death, could not deter them.

"[Joining the Corps] is all I've wanted to do," Brown said in an interview with The Spartana last February.

"I just want to be a part of something...[the Iraqi people] need our help, and we are able to give it to them," Huber said in the same interview.

Those of us that choose paths other than the military aren't necessarily afraid of it, we simply have different goals, different dreams. But those that choose the military now, especially with distinct possibility of deployment to a highly volatile environment, are nothing short of heroes. Though I will never claim to understand their motives, I have a deep respect for those people in Iraq right now and those that continue to pursue the dream. No John Kerry, those men and women you speak of aren't stuck anywhere. On the contrary, they're more courageous than most of us could ever dream of being.

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

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page 4
issue 6 volume 37
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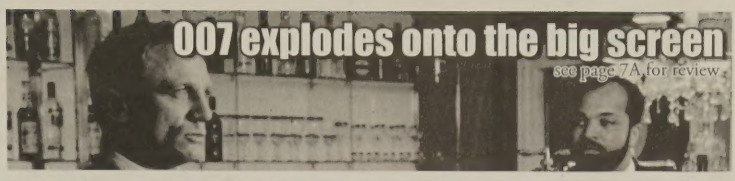
life



Friday, December 1, 2006

MASQUERADE

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

The cost of this year's semi formal to student government: $9,000—a whole new meaning to dressed to the 9's. Student government will be hefting over the cost of the dance and is breaking tradition: Homestead's auxiliary gym will host the event this year. With a $7,500 decoration plan to mask the gym, the expected 800 to 1,000 students will file into the gym for a night of formal dinners and dresses, corsages, slow dances, and fun.

The big surprise this year is the location of semi formal. The dance was traditionally held in a rental hall, like last year's Scottish Right Center. The change has left many wondering what are the reasons for the change.

Due to the Hall of Fame swim meet this weekend in Indianapolis, semi formal was rescheduled from this weekend to the next. The late change meant many of the former rentals had been booked. The only viable openings were the Scottish Right Center and Coliseum.

"Last year we had many complaints about the Scottish Right being too hot," student council member Galen Harden (12) said. "The Coliseum was pretty ugly, so we would have to spend a good deal on decorations anyway."

"A good deal" may be an understatement—$7,500 dollars will be spent on decorations alone, while the remainder of the $9,000 is spent on water and security. Student government has hired A Party Apart to help set up for the dance and transform the gym.

"Students think 'oh it's at Homestead, its not going to look that great,' but the gym is definitely not going too look like it used to," Harden said.

Although the gym was not chosen for financial reasons alone, cost was a concern. Student council lost income from the closed back room that didn't open until ten weeks into the school year. And rentals aren't cheap.

"On top of the cost of renting, the Scottish Right Center and Coliseum required us to use their catering service, which is extremely expensive," Harden said. "You still have to pay for parking and decorations on top of that. We felt we could do as good of job at Homestead, if not better, plus that extra money can go into decorations and lower ticket prices to $15."

Planning for this year's dance has also aimed to fix the mistakes of last year.

"Personally, I think semi is gong to be a lot better this year; decorations are over the top, there is a new DJ, and it won't be as hot," Harden said.

Similar to last year, an officer will be standing by at the entrance and students will be randomly breathalyzed.

"We do this at every dance," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "We aren't expecting any problems."

The administration has minimal impact on the dance besides approving the final date and location.

"Basically student government comes in and says 'here's the plan,' and if we have any concerns we talk it out," Bay said. "We are prepared for a lot of students. Student government always does a good job and we look forward to giving students this opportunity."

Excitement has been building—most girls already have their dresses and students purchased tickets throughout this week.

"I'm really excited to hang out with my friends and see the gym. I hope student council pulls it off," Rachel Germain (11) said.

"Dinner is going to be great, all the swimmers are hanging out before, and I'm looking forward to the dance too," Tim Veenstra (11) said. "Basically, semi is going to be sweet."

WORKS of ART

By Kara Hackett
Writer

While students are busy earning awards for achievements in academics and in sports, the lesser known talents hide behind the easels in the art room. For many students who participate in independent art studies, their art is more than just another class.

"I've been drawing ever since I can remember," Samantha Sirois (9) said. "I like 2D [art] because I'm better at drawing. I like to look at T-shirts and draw Japanese comics."

Samantha is working through her Intro to 2D art class and attributes her success to her fans who have kept her optimistic about her talents.

"When I would draw, people would compliment me and make me want to do it more," Sirois said.

Katie Bessette (12) claims that her art teacher, Cindy Husar, helped spark her interest in art.

"I first became interested [while taking] Intro to 2D art, but I wasn't as inspired as I am now. Once I had class with Ms. Husar, everything changed," Bessette, who is currently doing an independent study in painting, said. "There is a whole variety [of painting techniques]. Personally, I hate painting people. I really like to paint still-life. I like to put meaning into them."

PHOTO: ZACH HEYBOER

Art student Heather Moore (12) works at an easel as part of her independent study painting.

Bessette gets most of her inspiration from everyday events and the work of her peers.

"My home life and music are really inspiring," Bessette said. "Also, it helps to watch the other art students. Susan Watrous (12) is amazing. Watching her paint keeps me in awe."

Heather Moore (12) is also in an independent study with a focus in painting. Moore took art classes at her old school, but it was not until she came to Homestead that she truly became interested in art.

"When I came here, I met Ms. Husar, and she's definitely one of the greatest [art] teachers," Moore said. "[Art] is kind of like what you see in your head that you can't express in words, but you can express visually. Just to see something and be able to put it on canvas is amazing."

But art is more than just paints and brushes; personal feelings are hidden in every piece of artwork.

"You make [your artwork] reflect what you feel and you try to put yourself in it, so other people feel things when they look at it," Moore said.

Although Moore plans to major in architecture in college, she hopes to minor in the fine arts.

"There's a lot that you can do with art," Moore said. "It's a growing business."

Art classes at Homestead are limited to 2D art. Photography, as much as painting, sculpting, and fiber arts, is a way for students to express themselves outside of the academic world. Amy Khemka (11) started taking photography classes this year and plans to take advanced photography next year.

"[I love] all of the different things [(you can do), like coloring, toning, and overlapping pictures," Khemka said. "Pictures without people are my favorite. I think finding different viewpoints on objects is interesting."

No two people will ever take the exact same picture or paint identical paintings. The work of an artist is as unique as the artist himself, and Khemka is just beginning to view the world from an artistic perspective.

"When I see things now," Khemka said, "I look at them differently. I keep thinking, 'I wish I had my camera. I want to take a picture!'"

CLUB BRIEFS

KEY CLUB

Members have started a collection for used cell phones for the PaceButler cell phone drive, where donations which in turn will be donated to a charity chosen by the members. Cell phones can be dropped in student services from Monday Dec. 4 through Friday Jan. 12. Key Club is also working at the Community Harvest Food Bank and making meals at the Children's Hope Hospitality House. Meetings are held on Thursdays at 2:50 in the community room, and it's still not too late to join.

JCL

There will be a meeting after school on Wednesday, Dec. 6 in room 607. Members are asked to bring six treats for alumni care packages.

GUIDANCE

Students who want their second semester schedule changed must see a counselor by Dec. 22. See guidelines in student services on what counselors can and cannot do.

NAND

Students who pledged to be drug and alcohol free for semi-formal are welcome to come to the mask making party on Tuesday, Dec. 5 in the community room until 4 p.m. Glitter, feathers, beads and masks will be provided by NAND.

Students learning from students

Cadet teachers experience education first-hand

By Kara Busse
Writer

Every morning as the bell rings, the students take to their desks and teachers begin their classes, both assuming their roles in school. But with the cadet teaching program, students have the first-hand opportunity to see what it's like to teach. Whether they simply want the experience or plan on continuing in the field of education, cadet teaching provides a realistic teaching environment.

"It is a great class to take if you are thinking about an education degree. It gets you in the classroom so you can see what being a teacher is all about," Katelyn Samuels (12) said. "It's a great experience and I recommend the class to anyone who is interested in elementary education."

> "It is a great class to take if you are thinking about an education degree. It gets you in the classroom so you can see what being a teacher is all about."
> -Katelyn Samuels (11)

During third and fourth periods, students can choose or be assigned to work with an elementary or middle school teacher Tuesday through Thursday. On Mondays students stay at school and teacher Karen Shane gives a lesson about skills needed in the classroom. Mondays often give guest speakers a chance to come in and instruct the class about children and how the classroom works.

"We had people from the school district and ALPHA teachers as guest speakers, going over topics from child abuse to liabilities," Kelly Veenstra (12) said.

Offered to only juniors and seniors, cadet teaching focuses primarily on actual contact between high school 'teachers' and younger students. Cadet teachers are also responsible for the tasks that go behind a daily class: grading papers, record-keeping, planning lessons, and creating bulletin boards.

"I go to a first grade class everyday and I teach a lesson once a week to the whole class and work one on one with some of the kids everyday," Samuels said. "I help the kids who are behind and I give tests to the kids on a daily basis."

While students spend two periods a day in cadet teaching, they earn two semesters worth of credits in only one. And although cadet teaching isn't a traditional classroom, students are still being graded. Shane's observations of each cadet teacher in the classroom contribute significantly to their grades.

Cadet teachers get their fair share of hands-on experience, but on Oct. 30 the class took a trip to Towles Montessori, a private school in the Fort Wayne community, where students were exposed to a completely different method of education than what they have learned at Homestead.

"Kids learn at their own pace," Veenstra said. "They choose what they want to do during the day. They have weekly work plans they have to complete, but how they do it, the order, and the pace they do it is totally up to them."

By having such an opportunity, students were able to discover what teaching styles best suit them.

"I prefer tradition teaching," Veenstra said. "I didn't like the chaos of the new teaching style. I'd want to have more control over the classroom."

Fisher admires her home state

After traveling the back roads, drama teacher recounts her

By Jennifer Fisher
Drama teacher and director

PHOTO BY ZACHARY LEVY

One of the most interesting aspects of my 26 years of life was my year spend traveling our beautiful state of Indiana. Of all places to travel in the world, why would anyone choose their home state?

I will admit, it wasn't my first choice. I would have preferred some place tropical and exotic - like Aruba - but my former job enabled me to travel to Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio to visit high schools.

At first I dreaded the thought of being away from my newly purchased home and my beloved dog, Ginger, but I believe that in everything that seems bleak you can find the ray of sunshine.

So being the optimist that I am, I made the most of my travels by seeing all that Indiana has to offer. From the Wizard of Oz Museum in Chesterton, IN., to Wrigley Field in Chicago, and even a car museum in central Indiana on State Road 3, I did it all.

I ate at all the little mom and pop places that I could find (free, of course on my expense account), like the town restaurant in North Judson and the diner in East Chicago.

I visited a Wal-mart in every different city that I stayed in and I learned they are all just a little different in their own ways. I was able to amass an interesting collection of fuzzy, light up pens from the different stores.

I made friends with the hotel staff wherever I stayed. The girls who worked at the Holiday Inns where usually the most fun. I got "lost" and ended up at the Indiana Dunes after a visit one day. I also came to realize that I am not a fan of Ohio for various reasons; I dislike their logic of naming roads and devising highways. Every road in Ohio seemed to have three different names that tended to change a lot.

One of my favorite on-the-road stories is my adventure with the senior citizens group. I had a long break in between visiting schools and so I passed by a quaint little store and winery. I happened in to check out their array of chocolates and goodies. I found huge caramel apples, homemade candles, and chocolate corn (no I did not try any!).

I pulled in the same time as a large bus of senior citizens arrived for a guided tour and lunch. They adopted me into their group and I toured the facilities and ate lunch with them. In fact, the owner thought I was their chaperone from the nursing home. And I didn't try to change her mind.

One of my worst road traveling stories is the day that I spent my birthday alone in Gary, at night, driving a brand new, bright blue rental car. I got lost in the dark trying to find the college fair that I was to attend.

Let's just say, I cruised through a lot of stop signs that night. I did eventually find it and made it back to my hotel, safe and sound, in Merrillville.

Overall, as much as I don't missing driving for hours, eating fast food and living in hotels out of suitcase, I did enjoy my travels to the best of my ability.

I feel lucky to have had the experience and much more independent after being a road warrior.

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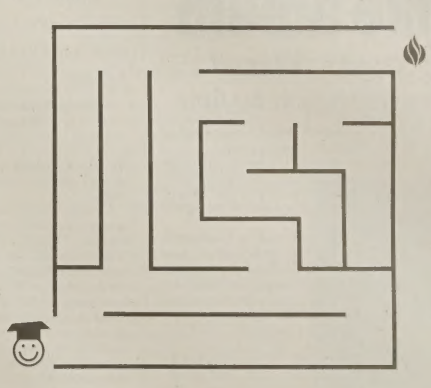

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Indulging in culture with Spanish club

Student members have opportunities to sample cuisine with friends after school

Taylor Harruff
Writer

Nearly all students take a foreign language class, learning how to conjugate verbs and use pronouns correctly. Nearly all students walk away from class with only 47 minutes worth of language and culture.

But for some Spanish students, the experience goes beyond the classroom; the Spanish club is not only a place to students to immerse themselves in a common language, but to expand their knowledge of the Spanish culture right behind the walls of the high school.

> *"It's a great way to meet with other peers that have similar interests. It's fun to work with Spanish in a way that's not academic."*
>
> **Brittany Neal (11)**
> Spanish Club President

The Homestead Spanish Club is sponsored by Judy Hill, a third and fourth year Spanish teacher. The club was initiated back around the same time that Homestead was built. A now retired Spanish teacher first started the program to give the students activities after school.

Since then, the club has expanded its involvement in the community, as well its size. Currently the club consists of around 23 students – a group large enough to allow students to meet new people and experience a new atmosphere.

"I enjoy watching the students interact and make new friends," Hill said.

The club is predominately student run, and teachers do their best to remain distanced from the activities and decisions that the group members make.

The members elect a new club president every year. That individual is responsible for running the programs planned for outside of school, as well as organizing the bi-weekly meetings.

"The meetings are pretty fun," President Brittany Neal (11) said. "We get to eat, and just talk with the other members."

Fun and games aside, meetings are a time for club members to plan future events, as well as to dedicate themselves to helping the community.

Currently Spanish club is working on a project for Good Samaritans. The club recently completed a donation drive that was aimed to provide less fortunate children with presents for the up and coming holidays.

"We just finished the Toys for Tots project," Neal said. "We filled shoe boxes with lots of gifts to give the kids."

Although most meetings are held every other Thursday from 2:50 to 3:30 p.m., every so often club members gather at local restaurants as a way to get more variety in their participation.

When the club isn't sampling the finest of local Spanish food, the club provides the members with chips and salsa, along with other foods that center around the Spanish culture that they learn about.

Ft. Wayne may be limited in Hispanic culture and cuisine, but Chicago is not. During the spring, members make the track to the "Windy City" to experience some of the Hispanic culture that thrives there.

All foreign language clubs are offered to all students, but there is a prerequisite of at least one year of Spanish experience in order to join the Spanish Club.

According Neal, one of the most rewarding parts of being involved in the club is being able to voice some of her ideas and excel with the language and the culture of the countries students usually only study from the books in the classroom. Now she can meet Spanish culture head-on.

"It's a great way to meet with other peers that have similar interests," Neal said. "It's fun to work with Spanish in a way that's not academic."

HECHOS IMPORTANTES

Teacher sponsors: Judy Hill and Jusin Peeper
Club president: Brittany Neal
Number of members: 23

Megan Churchward: undefined

Facing high school with anorexia behind her

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

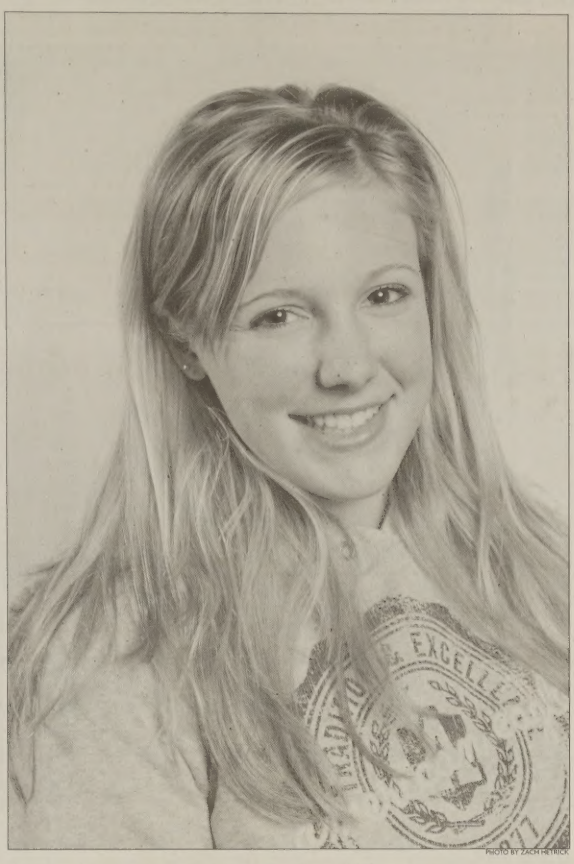


PHOTO BY ZACH HEYRICK

The cancer patient is not defined by a tumor, the diabetic is not simply a character of his blood sugar. Sophomore Megan Churchward is no exception; after having dealt with a serious eating disorder, she no longer allows her life to be defined by it. Instead Megan is an active member of Elite and has recently made the cheerleading team. With honors classes, gymnastics, and school activities to balance, it's no wonder that Megan is too busy to be defined by anorexia.

Today she uses her experience to ground herself in the hectic world of high school and plans to continue in the medical field to help others who deal with similar problems. Megan joined the Spartana over a cup of coffee to talk about her hobbies, her beliefs, and her past.

Spartana: Tell us about your struggle with anorexia.

Megan: [It] started with cheerleading. If I wanted to be the thinnest cheerleader, if I wanted to be the flier, I [thought I] should lose a couple pounds. So I cut back on the junk food and I exercised more. By winter break I had lost five pounds. I was content. But I kept getting more afraid of certain foods, so I just kept cutting back on what I allowed myself to eat.

By January I was down to 90 pounds. I'd lost ten pounds. I went to my mom and said I had a problem. At that point I couldn't even eat a cookie without bursting out in tears. The mental part of it was starting to take over. She took me to my doctor and she set me up with a nutritionist and a counselor.

Spartana: Looking back now, do you think there's something that triggered it?

Megan: It's definitely hard in high school when there are girls who say, "Oh I'm so fat," and you look at yourself and say, "If she's fat then what am I?" It's hard to believe it exists in middle school, but it does. It was just a mix of things, and I'm a perfectionist.

Spartana: What about your recovery?

Megan: We started to work through it but I kept losing weight and by spring break in March I got down to 80 pounds. I had to go on bed rest; I had to stay home from school. My parents had to force feed me sometimes. Little by little I gained my weight back. By the time I started ninth grade, I had gained some weight back.

I guess people don't understand that it's a mental disease. I wanted to gain weight but there was that other side that said I didn't want to. I'm mostly recovered now. I still feel pressured to be thin. I think every girl does, feels pressured to look her best. It's just frustrating because that's not what matters.

Spartana: If you could help girls who deal with similar pressures, what would you say?

Megan: It's easy to say, but even I still struggle with it. There are still things that I'd love to change about myself. You just kind of have to come to peace with it. My religion really helped me through it. I realized that God made me the way I am for a reason and I think people need to realize that. It's easy to say they need to accept themselves for who they are but that's really what you need to do. If you have a good group of friends that loves you for who you are on the inside, then…[forget] everyone else.

Spartana: With everything you've already dealt with, how was your transition into high school?

Megan: [High school] is so weird. Some of my good friends that I had in middle school seem that over night they just flipped the switch. [A lot of people] got into the whole partying scene. I never really got into that. It's completely different. In the high school, everyone changes. I changed. Some people change for the worse, some people change for the better.

Spartana: Everyone's got their own reasons for choosing their lifestyle. Why do you stay away from the party scene?

Megan: A lot of it has to do with the people I hang out with. They're just not interested in that. My freshman year I met some new people and we just weren't into that. A lot of it has to do with my faith. Number one it's against the law, and number two there are so many better things you could be doing with you time.

Spartana: And now that you've come out of the gerbil tunnels of the Freshman Academy, how do you feel about it?

Megan: I've heard different opinions about it. I wasn't a huge fan of it, but it did help with the overcrowding. In my opinion it keeps us segregated for another year instead of streamlining us. I'm just kind of in the middle [about it].

Spartana: After high school – what are your plans?

Megan: I actually want to go into psychiatry. I'd like to help people with eating disorders. My experience really gave me a reality check that a lot of people do deal with it, and it is a serious disease and they do need help. I'd like to go into that field, or something medical. I'd just like to help people.

Spartana: What are you looking forward to in the next year?

Megan: I get my license in April. I can't wait.

Enchanted Evening? Eh... Eventually

Emma Farnsworth
Writer

I first heard girls chatting about "semi" in fiber arts class freshman year. I thought they were talking about a truck, but I was quickly set straight. After all, semiformal is THE dance: less pressure than prom, yet still sparkly and pretty, and, unlike prom, the entire school can attend.

Still, I never shook the image of semiformal as a gaudy big rig, complete with playgirl silhouettes on the mud flaps, fuzzy dice, hi-beam headlights, and loud, colorful advertisements splashed on the side: "Come Away With Me! Baby, it's Cold Outside! Masquerade: the Music of the Night!" Like an oversize truck, every year the semiformal dance parks itself in the conversation of Homestead students. We can't completely ignore it – we are shaded by its massive shadow, which tints our minds with its velvety dark romance.

Anticipation is everything – after the dance, nobody cares who went together and what everyone wore. Beforehand, however, it provides gossipy entertainment for weeks. Do you have a date? Do you have a dress? What does it look like? Where will you go for dinner?

It's every girl's oldest fantasy: the freshman through senior Cinderellas get to go to the ball, beautiful for one magical night, with perfect hair and cute shoes. And don't forget the prince – Cinderella doesn't dance like a loser with her little mouse friends to the fast songs, but slowly sways to "From This Moment On," closing her eyes while the prince grabs her butt.

It's a nice enough fairy tale, but how often do events actually play out like a Disney movie? I know that there is a high concentration of nice, attractive, smart girls at Homestead who aren't going to semiformal. But here's the shocker: most of us are okay with that. I salute the girls who don't fall into the trap of Sleeping Beauty, waiting for some guy to come and kiss them awake.

"... Cinderella doesn't dance like a loser with her little mouse friends..."

Emma Farnsworth (12)
Writer

Of course, we all have our shallow dreams of twinkling lights and strong embraces. When we were the Snow Whites of middle school, naive and surrounded by dwarves, we imagined the day when our Prince Charmings would come to whisk us away.

But in high school, though the guys are taller, our options are, at best, similar to Belle's: arrogant Gastons who just want to "get some," moody and immature Beasts, and…talking clocks and candelabras? Dateless masses, when you take off the rose-colored glasses and look around, are you really missing out? We're probably better off reading a good book.

To be fair, I'm sure there are some great guys out there – I've seen the Mickey and Minnie Mice, the friendly Simbas and Nalas who make out and hold hands and laugh in the hallways. That's great and cool for them, but it's very rare to find the Eric to your Ariel in high school: you're better off looking for your Flounder. We're still stuck under the sea, or, rather, we are Jasmines inside the white palace walls. Let's get out and see the rest of Agrabah before we get depressed about our lack of suitable suitors. As Mulan knew, you've gotta recognize the beauty of your own reflection before you'll be happy with your prince.

For now, I like to think I'm Pocahontas, hanging out with the hummingbirds and raccoons, trying to learn as much as I can from the willow trees, and painting with the colors of the wind. I'll just canoe along for now. Who knows? John Smith may be just around the river bend.

On parade with story-like album

My Chemical Romance's latest release, framed around a fictional dying hospital patient, shows new side of band rarely heard by fans

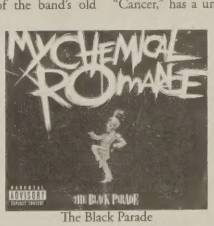
Brad Lufkin
Writer

My Chemical Romance's fourth album, The Black Parade, was released on October 24, 2006 and has critics pointing at the downright strange new songs inspired by Queen. The band consists of Gerard Way, Mikey Way, Bob Bryar, Frank Iero, and Ray Toro. This album, like the band's first two albums, is a concept album.

"This album is a story of a man, known as The Patient, who dies in a hospital. He goes on an odyssey and examines his life and the mistakes he has made," Gerard Way said during an interview that was released on iTunes. "His strongest memory is his dad taking him to a parade when he was a child. So when death comes for him, it comes in the form of a black parade."

The Black Parade is very different from My Chemical Romance's first albums. Any preconceived notions that listeners may have about this CD should be thrown away as quickly as those plastic CD wrappers. My Chemical Romance has gotten much more mature and has developed its sound with this newest album.

"The End," the powerful opening track, smoothly segues into "Dead!" with the essence of the band's old tastes but with the new style, which is appealing to many music fans and not just the early group of fans. "Dead!" is a profane hard rock song which, hence the title, is about The Patient's death.



The Black Parade
October 24, 2006

"This is How I Disappear" follows and tells the listener that The Patient feels guilty about what he did and he thinks that he should have never hurt the person that he loved.

Later comes "I Don't Love You," a melodic ballad for My Chemical Romance. This song uses piano and good melodies while The Patient tries to explain why he doesn't deserve his girl.

"I Don't Love You," as well as "Cancer," has a unique sound which captivates the listener. "Cancer" is a track with very tragic and emotional lyrics. Gerard Way varies the volume of his voice, reeling the listener into the song.

"Mama" comes right after "Cancer" and starts with a low-key melody that leads into a lively chorus. The Patient reveals that he feels he "should have been a better son." Liza Minnelli even shows up for a cameo in "Mama," showcasing how much the band has changed.

The very impressive, rock-boogie song "Teenagers" starts up soon after. With lyrics that appeal to all listeners, "Teenagers" is about the coming into adulthood.

The "last" track on the album is "Famous Last Words" and is a great track from the album. The song's lyrics are the "Famous Last Words" that The Patient had before the incident that caused "The End."

"Famous Last Words" is the "last" song because, on the CD there is a hidden track. The song is silent for the first minute and thirty seconds, but then starts off with piano. This hidden track titled "Blood" has more of a Ragtime feel and can be heard at the band's website.

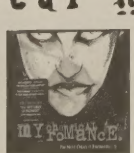
My Chemical Romance has retained their old sound, but have drastically changed it at the same time. The band was-reborn with this CD, giving new listeners a chance to enjoy the music.

Other albums by My Chemical Romance

Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge
September 19, 2006

X-Posed
September 19, 2006

The Ghost of You
August 30, 2005



I'm Not Okay (I Promise)
February 28, 2005

Helena
August 22, 2005

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

gamingreview

by Patrick Kay

Guitar Hero

In case you missed it, in November 2005, RedOctane and Harmonix released Guitar Hero (GH), a rhythm/music-based video game. Now, when I say 'rhythm/music-based video game', I know what you're thinking: Dance Dance Revolution.

The best way I can describe GH is if your dance pad was transformed into a plastic guitar peripheral, if dancing turned into pressing (of buttons), and if Sean Paul suddenly became Megadeth. The original Guitar Hero was subject to rave reviews, and was a contender for 2005's Game of the Year. Now the question is: how does the sequel hold up?

I'm going to say this now. Pretty good.

The gameplay is essentially the same. Nothing makes it better, and nothing makes it worse. The only negative is the three-string chords you'll encounter. While these chords improve on the previous installation, this gameplay mechanic is slightly flawed. The first time three-string chords come towards you, you'll be taken completely off-guard.

It can be downright unfair to throw these into a song, or at least part of a song, which doesn't need them. Eventually you'll get used to doing this, but the developers could have introduced it better.

Another new thing about GH2 is the ramped-up difficulty level. While the first game had a smooth, linear transition from Easy to Expert, the second game just expects you to already be a master. A few months ago some friends and I came over to my house, and we all ended up playing the original Guitar Hero. They, not playing as much as I, were devastated by the time they reached the Medium difficultly level. Therefore, Guitar Hero II is not for beginners. As glossed-up and technically better this game may be, it's just too difficult if you've never played before.

The one final - and most important - addition to GH2 is the Practice Mode. A flaw with the original was that when you were stuck on "Bark at the Moon's" solo, there was hardly any way to improve. Sure, you could play the whole song again and again and again, but that would take too much time.

Now with the practice mode, you can slow down any section of any song you desire, making it easier to memorize long, intricate solos. With the ramped-up difficulty, I found myself heading back to practice mode after failing songs multiple times.

The single most important thing about a music game is, as you most likely found out, the music. This may be the most opinionated section of the review, but frankly, the track list for Guitar Hero 2 just is not as good as the original. With the original, there were songs for everyone. They had Jimi Hendrix, Sum 41, Pantera, and Joan Jett & The Blackhearts all in the same game.

However, the developers of this game listened perhaps a bit too much to the average American. This game has Nirvana, The Rolling Stones, Lynyrd Skynyrd. If you love these songs, that's great. However, if you, like me, do not care for these bands, I can assure you that the songs are still fun to play. Just don't let everyone play only "Free Bird".

Overall, Guitar Hero 2 is nothing short of an improvement. The graphics are crisper, the sound quality is even better, and the gameplay is the same kind of amazing the first Guitar Hero was. The one big factor holding back Guitar Hero 2 is the impact.

When the first Guitar Hero arrived, it truly made an impact, and a shockwave hit all those who played it. With Guitar Hero 2, there is no true impact.

As better as this game may be, it feels less like an evolution or a revolution, and more like a slight update.

sudoku bookreviews

1			4			6		5
				1		8		4
				3	8	1		
2	5		9				1	
	4				3		9	7
		8	7	9				
5		6		4				
7		3			5			2

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

The Piano Tuner

by Daniel Mason

Genre: Fiction

Synopsis: Edgar Drake, a piano tuner, is commissioned to travel to Burma in 1886 to repair surgeon-major Anthony Carroll's rare piano. Carroll is a predominate political force in the jungle, and Drake overstays his visit to help the major with his political campaign, falling in love with the country and with the locals. As Drake falls deeper and deeper into the country and politics, the novel climaxes and ends on a tragic and memorable note.

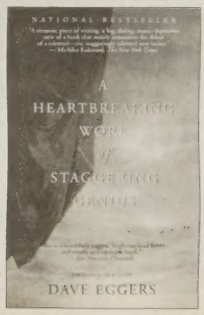
Recommended because: The descriptions of a far away land are just as forceful as the plot; the story is complex, beautifully written, and enchanting, staying with the reader well past the last page. This is an excellent novel by a first time novelist. Daniel Mason has worked hard to convey the beauty of a dangerous place.

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

by Dave Eggers

Genre: Memoir/Humor

Synopsis: The novel is a humorous account of the author's life after his parents die, leaving him to take care of his eight-year-old brother affectionately known as Toph. The two travel to California, immersing themselves in the media savvy world while trying to run a dysfunctional household. Eggars is the epitome of the technological generation, plodding his way through his off-kilter world in a devastatingly humorous book.



Recommended Because: Varying between light and heavy topics, but never swaying from the initial humor, Eggars' book an entertaining and non-traditional memoir.

filmreview

by Chris Purdy

Casino Royale

Over the years, the James Bond series has pretty much been going downhill, with the exception of only a couple good films. *With Die Another Day* in 2002, it basically hit rock bottom. James Bond was no longer the dangerous, suave spy of his early years; he was a comic book version of himself, and I wasn't sure if the people responsible would ever be able to salvage what once made these movies so great.

Casino Royale puts all these fears to rest. Directed by Martin Campbell, who saved the series once before when he helmed *Goldeneye* in 1995. *Casino Royale* was originally a novel written in 1953, the first in the whole series, by Bond creator Ian Fleming. Now it has been expertly updated and adapted to 2006 by returning writers Neil Purvis and Robert Wade, with the help of Oscar-winning writer Paul Haggis (Million Dollar Baby, Crash).

The film undeniably does the book justice, and frankly it is the best Bond film. Just like in the movie, the producers took a high-stakes gamble in deciding to drop Pierce Brosnan for a younger actor and reboot the series. This 'reboot' means that, like Batman Begins, it is not a prequel, remake, or sequel. They're simply starting over. As far as *Casino Royale* is concerned, the previous twenty never happened. It was a superb decision on their part to do this, as the series was getting too fantastical, even stale, and resorting to things like invisible cars and ice palaces.

Possibly an even better decision was casting Daniel Craig in the role. He may be blond, but he is without a doubt the definitive James Bond. The man is a terrific actor, as can be seen in films like *Road to Perdition*, *Layer Cake*, and *Munich*, and this film truly shows off his immense range. His ruthless, intense, and more human 007 is something that has to be seen to be believed, and is the finest, most unpredictable and dangerous interpretation since Sean Connery.

The movie is also much more down to earth than the past several outings. There is no diabolical scheme to destroy or take over the planet; there are terrorists and their greedy financiers. Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen) is a private banker for the world's terrorists who loses his Ugandan client's money after betting against a certain airline's stock.

His plan was to bomb their brand new jumbo jet as it is unveiled, thus winning millions when the stock plummets, but Bond thwarts this plot and Le Chiffre is forced to host an extremely-high-stakes poker game to win back this money before both his client and his superior, the mysterious Mr. White, find out and punish him. Le Chiffre is a cunning villain in and of himself, but it is interesting to see a nemesis that actually answers to someone higher.

Having just received 'double-0' status after his first two kills – and after completely botching a mission in Madagascar – Bond is sent to Montenegro to attend Le Chiffre's game and see to it that he loses. The charming and humorous side of this new Bond is revealed when he first meets Vesper Lynd (Eva Green), the treasury representative that will keep him funded in the game.

They exchange witty quips and quickly form a friendship that eventually turns into something rarely seen in a 007 film: Bond actually falls in love. The relationship between Bond and Vesper, no doubt with thanks to Ian Fleming, is taken seriously and handled with a delicacy rarely seen in action movies. It is fascinating to see the human side of James Bond, and Daniel Craig performs it with such panache that we can always tell what he's thinking.

This film is the complete antithesis of what we generally expect Bond movies to be: the one-dimensional, mindless, high-octane fun. Instead, what we have here is what Ian Fleming wanted; Bond is a tortured soul who doesn't particularly like his job, but does it because it's what he knows and it's what he's good at.

I've been a fan of the series (the longest running franchise in movie history) my whole life, and this is the James Bond film I've been waiting for. It has all the best elements of the classics - Martinis, Aston Martins, Walthers, and women - but is also a perfect reinvention of a series that could very well have died off. Welcome back. We've been expecting you, Mr. Bond. *Starring Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Eva Green, and Mads Mikkelsen.*

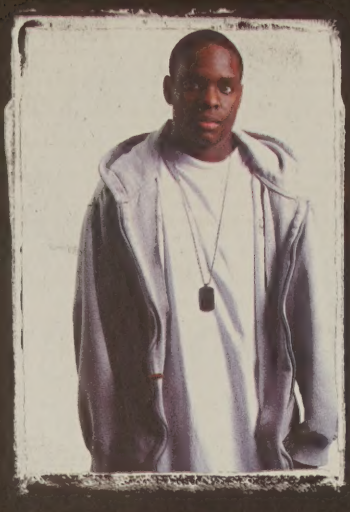
Purdy's Rating: ★★★★

Daniel Craig as the first blonde James Bond in last month's surprising hit *Casino Royale*. All photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

FACES OF THE RAMP

a photo essay by zach hetrick

Brendan Berkshire



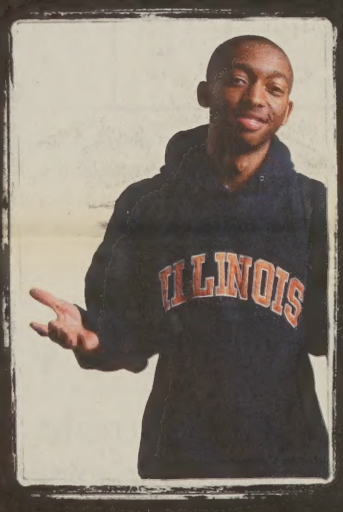
Isang Isang

Keonna Cole

Shirlisa Black

"VARIETIES OF PEOPLE, DIFFERENT GROUPS, COLORS, AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE. HOMESTEAD WOULD NOT BE AS TIGHT WITHOUT IT."

Shirlisa Black



Sharrod Curry

Aaron Dark

Tutu McCarthy

London Carlisle

page 1B
issue 6 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

Season Ender

Football season ends with loss to state runner-up Carmel.
page 2B

Friday, December 1, 2006

UPHILL BATTLE

Girls basketball looks to its seniors to surpass low expectations

By Kara Busse
Writer

Ever since last year's disappointing 9-9 campaign, the varsity girls basketball team has seen its stock fall among local basketball enthusiasts, who predicted a sixth place finish in conference for the Lady Spartans this season. The girls are out to prove them wrong, and have begun this season 2-2, with their first conference game tomorrow against Norwell.

"We basically have no respect," Stephanie Mitchell (12) said.

Losing seniors hurts every year, but for the girls varsity basketball team it hasn't been much of a problem. The seniors and even some underclassmen have taken on the role of being leaders on and off the court.

"This year the team will be led by seniors Katelyn McMillin (12), Erica Merrifield (12), Lauren Cleaver (12), and Mitchell," sixth-year coach Rod Parker said.

> "I just want to do the best that I can and work hard so that the seniors have a great year."
> Caroline Rondot (11)

Caroline Rondot (11) will also be one of the vocal leaders of this season's team and will be relied on to provide stability and versatility on both offense and defense.

Several other talented juniors and underclassmen will also play important roles on the team.

"They are always encouraging us which is huge because when the coaches are on our case we have each other to pick ourselves up," Stephanie Lineback (11) said.

The team's goals are quite simple, yet could be difficult to obtain with play similar to last year. In the long run the girls wish to win the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) conference and go on to win the Northrop sectional.

In addition to those, the team aims to play consistently, continue to demonstrate a great work ethic, improve throughout the season, and mesh together as a team.

"To accomplish these goals, we must reduce our turnover to possession ratio from last season, out-rebound our opponents, and play intense defense," Parker said.

see GIRLS continued on page 2B

THE SEASON SO FAR

The girl's basketball team has started slow with losses to two teams ranked in the preseason top 25.

Nov. 16	FW Dwenger	L 48- 58
Nov. 21	FW Elmhurst	W 62- 57
Nov. 24	Hunt. North	L 37- 41
Nov. 29	Northside	W 44-39

SEASON SCHEDULE

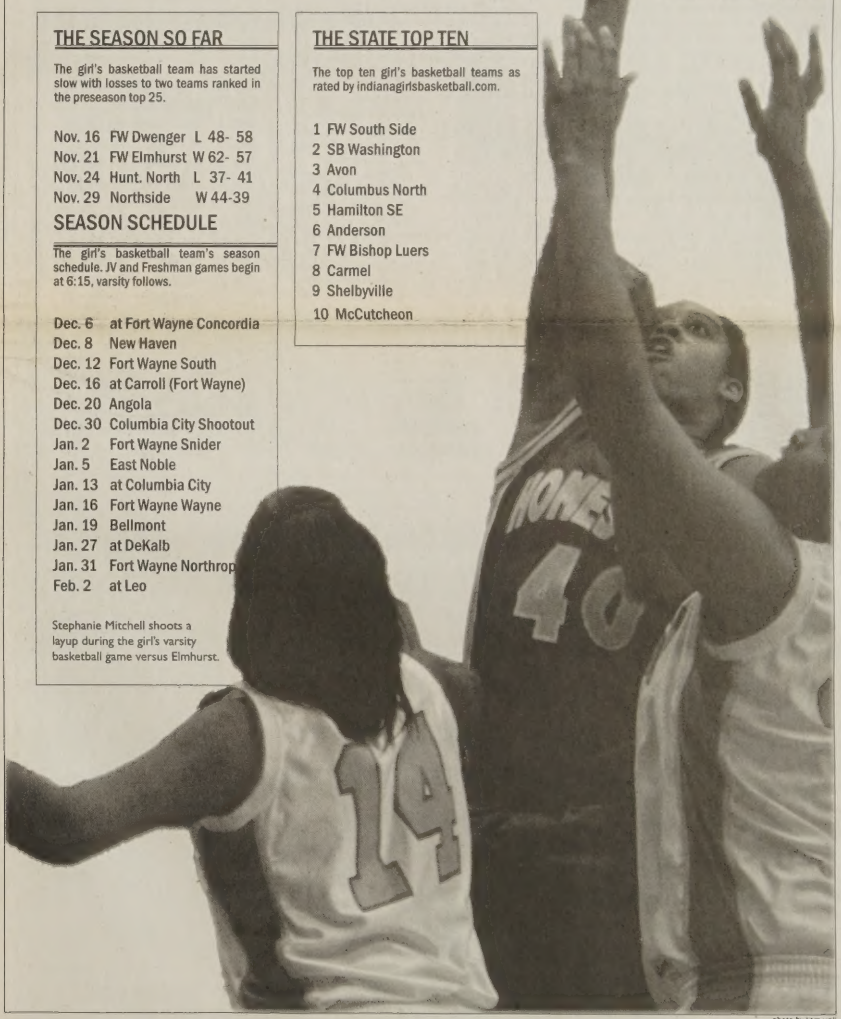
The girl's basketball team's season schedule. JV and Freshman games begin at 6:15, varsity follows.

Dec. 6	at Fort Wayne Concordia
Dec. 8	New Haven
Dec. 12	Fort Wayne South
Dec. 16	at Carroll (Fort Wayne)
Dec. 20	Angola
Dec. 30	Columbia City Shootout
Jan. 2	Fort Wayne Snider
Jan. 5	East Noble
Jan. 13	at Columbia City
Jan. 16	Fort Wayne Wayne
Jan. 19	Bellmont
Jan. 27	at DeKalb
Jan. 31	Fort Wayne Northrop
Feb. 2	at Leo

THE STATE TOP TEN

The top ten girl's basketball teams as rated by indianagirlsbasketball.com.

1 FW South Side
2 SB Washington
3 Avon
4 Columbus North
5 Hamilton SE
6 Anderson
7 FW Bishop Luers
8 Carmel
9 Shelbyville
10 McCutcheon



Stephanie Mitchell shoots a layup during the girl's varsity basketball game versus Elmhurst.

photo by kara wall

Hockey off to 5-4 start behind lead goal-scorer Glick

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Homestead hockey has moved deeper into their 2006 – 2007 season and continues to compete for a much-desired city championship title.

The team is currently third by their record in the Fort Wayne Area High School Hockey League (FWAHSHL), at 5-4, behind 8-1 Carroll and 6-2-1 Snider. The team however, believes in its ability to win games in the league, and in its talent on the ice.

"We're playing pretty well," Forward Ryan Hoff (10) said. "We have good team speed and endurance, and I think our team has a lot of talent. We are all good players and have good balance as a team."

Spartan Hockey also has the second leading scorer in the 2006-2007 league thus far in forward Will Glick, who has 15 goals and 4 assists for the season, only two points behind the leading point earner from Carroll. Glick's 15 goals on the season is tops in the league, the next closest goal scorer with 11.

Homestead Goalie Mike Donnell (11) is also playing well this season, ranking third among goaltenders according the FWAHSHL website. Donnell has allowed only 21 goals this season, yet has faced 221 shots on goal, which works out to a 90.5% save percentage.

Donnell's ranking as third is also thrown off somewhat by a Northrop goalie who is ranked first in the league despite have played only 7 minutes and facing only 3 shots.

"Mike Donnell has been giving us great goaltending," defenseman Sam DeStefano (11) said. "Our offense can score a lot of goals, so if we step up our defense we have a good chance of doing well."

Major tests for Homestead are upcoming on December 13 and 20 as the Spartans will face Snider and Carroll on consecutive weeks.

These back-to-back games will serve as an indicator of just where the Spartans truly stands in the league. The games could provide a critical confidence boost for the Spartans as they move toward the city tournament, their stated goal at the season's start.

"We definitely want to win city, that's our biggest goal," Donnell said. "Beyond that we just want to progress as a team and hopefully we can win state."

Moving forward, the team hopes to improve some of its areas of weakness this season and continue its proficiency in other aspects of the game.

"I think we have underperformed this season," Donnell said. "We should be a lot better and I think that our defense hasn't been playing as well as they could. But, we do have good puck movement and we play well as a team."

"We get down too easily if we get scored on," Hoff said. "We just need to stay positive and not get down so much."

The hockey team is clearly primed for a successful run in their postseason tournaments this year.

However, a great deal of hockey remains on the Spartans' schedule, and only time will tell if the team can achieve their preseason aspirations.

SEASON SCHEDULE

Homestead Hockey teams schedule. All games are played at McMillen Ice Arena.

Nov. 29	6:30pm	Northside
Dec. 06	6:30pm	Northrop
Dec. 13	8:30pm	Snider
Dec. 20	8:30pm	Carroll
Jan. 03	7:30pm	New Haven
Jan. 10	6:30pm	Northside
Jan. 17	8:30pm	Northrop
Jan. 24	6:30pm	Snider
Jan. 31	7:00pm	Carroll
Feb. 07	8:30pm	New Haven
Feb. 24	7:30pm	Northside

Boys' season delayed, to play tonight

Citing personal reasons, several seniors choose not to try out, underclassmen fill key roster spots

By Lee Farnsworth and Nick Arnold
Writers

Boys basketball has finalized its roster and is now gearing up for the start of the 2006-2007 season. Despite the loss of important components of last year's team in Grant Leiendecker and Jono Cobb, the team has reloaded with new talent and looks forward to the year ahead.

Tryouts for the team started Monday, November 6, although there have been several open gym sessions for interested players in the previous weeks. These voluntary sessions provided interested players with the opportunity to sharpen skills before tryouts began.

The post presence of several seniors who chose not to try out will certainly be missed by the Spartans this year, and it will require the combined efforts of seniors and underclassmen players to make up for their absence.

"I think ultimately [the decision of some seniors not to play] will give me more playing time," Bob Rodenbeck (12) said. "So, if anything, it gave me another reason to try out."

Homestead will field a varsity team with some seniors, but the team lacks extensive varsity experience. The team consists of Kyle Leiendecker (12), Rodenbeck, Desmond Lewis (12), Tyler Hoyle (12), Jordan Wise (12), Alex Kartman (12), David Blake (12), Jacob Weide (11), Chase Sanders (11), David Osborn (11), Bob Glover (11), Logan Bultemeier (12), and Tracy Hathaway (11).

Because of their few returning varsity players and need for post play, the Spartans will require some underclassmen like Weide to step into important roles on the team. With the majority of varsity players with limited experience, the team's returning seniors will be called upon to become better leaders.

"We only have about three or four returning seniors," Leiendecker said. "I feel like I'll have to step up big along with some other seniors to be a team leader."

"I think that my leadership will be needed," Rodenbeck said. "but we have all played together before, so we'll all need to step up and be vocal leaders of the team."

Despite the team's youth, its members still believe that they have a legitimate chance to accomplish many of their goals this season. Though they may lack senior players, the team's talent is still such that it will allow them to compete at a high level this season.

"As a team we would like to win conference

see BOYS on page 2B

SEASON SCHEDULE

Boy's Basketball season schedule. The first game against Harding was delayed due to Harding's Class 2A football state run.

Nov. 29	at Harding
Dec. 1	Fort Wayne Wayne
Dec. 5	Fort Wayne South
Dec. 9	at Manchester
Dec. 15	Carroll (Fort Wayne)
Dec. 22	Huntington North
Jan. 5	at Fort Wayne Concordia

Football run ends with loss to Carmel

Eventual 5A State Runners-Up pitch shutout against Spartan offense in double-digit victory

By Chris Ray
Writer

The varsity football team's surprising postseason run came to a halt on Friday November 10, as they lost to the 5A State Runner-Up Carmel Greyhounds by a score of 21-0. The Spartans, who beat the Snider Panthers in the Sectional Championship the previous week, seemed no match for the Greyhounds, as they were overpowered the entire game.

Carmel 21
Homestead 0

"Carmel was just a lot bigger than us on the offensive and defensive lines. They had a great running back who used the offensive line to run behind the whole game," wide receiver and safety Ryan Wright (11) said.

The Greyhound offensive attack was led by running back Aaron King, who rushed for a total of 235 yards on 33 carries. He scored all three of the Carmel touchdowns.

Carmel's defensive attack was the main factor to the Spartans' defeat. The Spartan offense was limited to only 132 total yards compared to 411 for the Greyhounds. Even more impressive, Carmel held the Spartans to only 4 net rush yards on the entire game.

The Carmel secondary forced quarterback Jordan Wise (12) to throw two interceptions, and he finished 14-27 for 125 yards. The Spartan offense did not seem like its normal self the entire game, being shut out for the first time since 2004 against New Haven, which was a span of 26 games.

Overall, the team ended with a record of 11-2, their best finish since the 2002 season when they went 10-1. They finished second in the Northeast Hoosier Conference with a record of 6-1 in conference play. Offensively, the Spartans finished the season averaging 28.5 points per game behind quarterback Wise, receivers Lewis and Wright, and running backs Charles Seals (11) and Ross Heckber (11). The defense gave up an average of 13.2 points per game behind linebacker Scherer and defensive linemen Laipple, Lehman, and Nathan Murphy (12).

Brian Laipple (12) consoles Jon Lehman (12) following the football team's loss to Carmel in Regionals. The team finished the season 11-2.

> "Carmel was just a lot bigger than us on the offensive and defensive lines."
>
> -Ryan Wright (11)

Despite the disappointing end to the 2006 season, the varsity football team has a lot to be proud of. They won their first Sectional Championship since their state run in 1998.

They defeated Snider in dramatic fashion 21-16 after losing six straight games to the Panthers. Their only two losses came to teams who were the State Runners-Up in their respective classes, Norwell in 3A and Carmel in 5A.

The Spartans also had something that they didn't have in previous years: senior leadership. The team started 15 seniors on offense and defense combined. The team will lose standout quarterback Jordan Wise and wide receiver Desmond Lewis (12) next year, including important pieces from a solid offensive line. On the defensive side of the ball, the Spartans will lose defensive captains Kyle Scherer (12) and Brian Laipple (12), and also defensive tackle Jon Lehman (12) and cornerbacks Ryan Cicero (12) and Grant Laird (12).

"The seniors were a big part of our team this year," running back Jordan Barnes (10) said. "If the underclassmen lift and get stronger over the summer, I think we have a great chance of being just as good as this team was, if not better."

Without a doubt, the 2006 football team and season is one to remember.

By record, this was one of the most successful seasons since the Spartans' run to the dome in 1998. Great moments like stunning Snider for the Sectional crown and a seven-game win-streak to begin the season created substantial buzz about the team. Even with the shutout loss to end the season, the Spartans gave many something to cheer about.

SEASON REVIEW

The football teams final record was 11 wins and 2 losses. Losing in the regional finals to the eventual state runner up Carmel.

Aug. 18	Hunt. North	W	28-13
Aug. 25	at Warsaw	W	28- 6
Sep. 1	East Noble	W	35-13
Sep. 8	at C. City	W	33- 0
Sep. 15	Bellmont	W	42- 7
Sep. 22	at DeKalb	W	34-11
Sep. 29	at Carroll	W	36- 3
Oct. 6	Norwell	L	18-56
Oct. 13	New Haven	W	35- 6
Oct. 20	Goshen	W	35-14
Oct. 27	Warsaw	W	26- 7
Nov. 3	at Snider	W	21-16
Nov. 10	Carmel	L	0-21

CLASS 2A
HARDING 20
SOUTHRIDGE 7

CLASS 3A
BISHOP CHATARD 7
NORWELL 0

CLASS 4A
CATHEDRAL 38
CONCORD 14

CLASS 5A
WARREN CENTRAL 35
CARMEL 14

Boys, continued from 1B

this year and then make our way through the post-season and sectionals," Rodenbeck said.

"We want to win the NHC conference," Leiendecker said. "We'll have some tough conference games with Norwell and Carroll, but I think it is a realistic goal."

The boys basketball team plays their first game tonight at Harding. The game was originally scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, but due to Harding's football state finals run, the game was moved to tonight.

Key seniors choose not to try out

There comes a time in every athlete's life when he must make a very difficult choice, between pursuing a sport at a higher level and deciding to call it quits. For some, this decision occurs well before high school, while for others, it occurs at critical times during their high school years. Such was the case for some athletes this year that made the decision not to return to the varsity basketball program. A variety of issues influenced the decisions of these athletes. Some had reached the point where they realized basketball would no longer be a major part of their life. With college on the horizon, they made the decision to commit themselves to their education. One athlete said he never really considered playing basketball in college, so he just felt the time was right to make a decision to not participate this year.

A varsity sport is an enormous commitment for a student athlete. During the season, most all of their time is devoted to either their studies or their sport. For some, the absence of such a large commitment is a welcoming thought, but there was a general consensus that they will miss the team aspect of playing on the team.

"I will enjoy not having to come home and stay up really late to get my homework done," one athlete said.

"I'm definitely going to miss the team aspect of it," another said. "I still have friends on the team and I'll miss being able to compete with them."

Even though they are not playing on the school team, many are choosing to compete in intramurals. Though it is different from official high school athletics, it still provides an opportunity to play in an organized league and stay active in athletics. One athlete said he liked that with intramurals the pressure to win simply isn't there when comparing it to a school-sponsored team, where the nerves can sometimes get the best of a player. Though organized athletics played a big part in many of their lives, these athletes have decided it is time to move on.

Anonymity was granted to those interviewed.

Girls, continued from 1B

The Lady Spartans wanted their debut to be a positive one when they played their first opponents, the Bishop Dwenger Saints, on Thursday, November 16.

During the preseason the girls conditioned themselves to prevent fourth quarter fatigue. Coach Parker also set up different game scenarios, so the girls knew how to think on their feet.

"Our team worked really hard during the preseason at learning our plays, getting into shape, and working well as a team to get ready for our basketball season," Rondot said.

The hard work did not translate into an opening-game win, as they fell to the Saints 58-48.

The Lady Spartans showed in the preseason an ability to press and cause quick turnovers but didn't present that aspect of their play during the game.

They were prone to sloppy play and could not match the intensity of Bishop Dwenger, but the girls saw it as a chance to improve.

"I think that after playing Dwenger we should not see it as a loss, but more as an opportunity to make ourselves better and learn from our mistakes," Lineback said.

On Tuesday, November 21, the team bounced back and defeated the Elmhurst Trojans 62-57. The game proved to be a confidence booster for the girls, since they had already gotten off on a bad note, losing their first.

The third game of this year's season was to be a big revenge game for the Lady Spartans.

The team was hoping the leaders would guide them to an upset victory on Friday, November 24 against Huntington North, who handled the Lady Spartans by 40 points in each of the past two years.

Naturally, because they were embarrassed by Huntington North the last several years, they wanted badly to make an early statement.

The Lady Spartans were ahead at halftime and went back and forth with the Lady Vikings throughout the fourth quarter, neither team able to build a sizeable lead.

It was a game of inches, and the Lady Spartans would unfortunately blink first.

With the game tied, Huntington North took the ball up-court and hit a three-pointer that would eventually prove to be the winning shot. The Lady Spartans were stopped on the other end, and Huntington North hit a foul shot a possession later to go up two scores.

Eventually, the Lady Spartans were forced to foul in desperation and helped the Lady Vikings extend their lead to four in the final seconds, giving Huntington North a 41-37 win. Considering how close the game was this year, the girls were visibly upset afterwards, understanding how close they came to beating their rivals.

Last season, McMillin went down with a concussion early against Huntington North and was not a factor in the game. This year, however, she scored 18 points to lead all scorers in a losing cause. Mitchell, Cleaver, and Rondot contributed to the offense as well with a combined 19 points.

The Lady Spartans couldn't focus very long on the loss because their fourth game was Tuesday, November 28, against Northside. The game ended well for the girls, as they fought back to claim a slim five-point victory over Northside, 44-39.

The girls play their first conference game against the Norwell Knights tomorrow, Saturday, November 2. To achieve their goal of winning the NHC for the first time since the 1998 season, a win against the Lady Knights will be critical.

"I just want to do the best that I can and work hard so that the seniors have a great year and [can] be a part of the best team Homestead has had in a while," Rondot said.

Class 4A Boys Basketball preseason Rankings

(as of 11.29.2006)

Once again, Indianapolis has a strong showing in the preseason basketball rankings, claiming three of the top ten spots, including number one North Central.

1. NORTH CENTRAL — *Indianapolis, Indiana*
2. VALPARAISO — *Valparaiso, Indiana*
3. MUNCIE CENTRAL — *Muncie, Indiana*
4. PIKE — *Indianapolis, Indiana*
5. LAWRENCE NORTH — *Indianapolis, Indiana*
6. NEW CASTLE — *New Castle, Indiana*
7. ANDERSON — *Anderson, Indiana*
8. BLOOMINGTON SOUTH — *Bloomington, Indiana*
9. EVANSVILLE BOSSE — *Evansville, Indiana*
10. PENN — *Mishawaka, Indiana*

Swim team opens with a victory

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

After coming off the best season, the boys and girls team are looking to have another highly successful season. Many of the swimmers have been extremely active throughout the off season with club swimming and have returned to the team eager to start the season.

At the state finals last season both teams were very successful. The boys' team finished as the state runner up. The team's two highlights were Dave Piercy, who won the state diving championship, and the 200m freestyle relay team, consisting of Adam Lill (12), Kyle Frebel (11), Chris Jones, and Andrew Hoffman. The girls' team placed eighth, with several other individuals who placed even higher.

The girls' team returns a strong group of seniors which hope to lead the team to an even better finish than last season. The team has high goals and will not settle for less. They hope to finish in the top three at the state meet at the end of the year.

While some teams can be satisfied with one year of success, the teams refuse to let up and push themselves with countless hours of practice.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the team swims from 5:15 am to 6:50 am. After school they swim again from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and then go to the weight room for approximately an hour. Tuesdays and Thursdays are somewhat lighter with only on practice from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm after school. They also have 8:00 am practice on Saturdays. Endurance and strength are the two things stressed at these practices. Also this year they are starting to do test sets every Tuesday and Saturday.

These are all-out sprints and the times are recorded throughout the season to track improvement. The teams train and practice together and pride themselves on team unity.

"This year both teams are focusing on being a team of one," Kendra Kinzer (12) said, who does the 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle, and 400 freestyle relay. "We've realized over the years that this goal is what will make us truly successful. It's so much easier to achieve personal goals when you have a group of 50 plus of your closest friends with you the whole way through."

After the high school season, most of the swimmers also swim for a club team.

The Spartans swim from September to March and then they usually take April off and then are back in the pool for club season the rest of the summer.

"We try to relax and get away from the pool for awhile, but the team still hangs out all the time," Kinzer said.

On November 28, the boys and girls swim teams had their first joint meet, opening up their conference season at home against East Noble.

Though the team doesn't usually swim its top swimmers at dual meets, all varsity swimmers participated in the meet. The meet proved an easy win, as the boys swept every event, and the girls were not far behind.

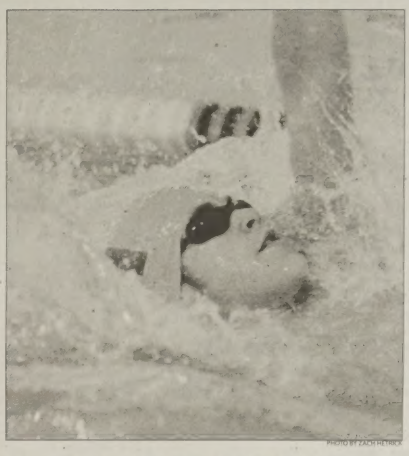


PHOTO BY ZACH HEMBY

Above: Tim Veenstra (11) swims backstroke in the 200 medley relay at the meet against East Noble.
Below: Swimmers wait for the official to begin the race.

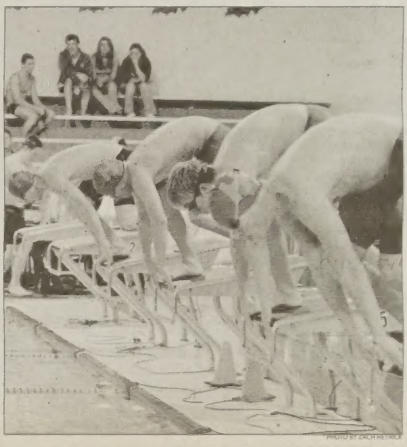


PHOTO BY ZACH HEMBY

PRESEASON STATE RANKINGS:

BOYS	GIRLS
1. Hamilton Southeastern	1. Carmel
1. North Central (Indianapolis)	2. Hamilton Southeastern
3. Homestead	3. Homestead
4. Chesterton	4. Yorktown
5. Munster	5. Jasper
6. Yorktown	6. North Central (Indianapolis)
7. Carmel	7. Munster
8. South Bend Riley	8. Mt. Vernon (Posey)
9. Crawfordsville	9. Penn
10. Westfield	10. Columbus North

Wrestlers take down DeKalb

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The varsity wrestling team participated in their first wrestling match of the season Tuesday, November 28. Numerous hours of practice finally paid off when the fourteen varsity wrestlers defeated the DeKalb Barons, 53-15.

Out of the fourteen varsity wrestlers, eleven defeated their opponents, and only three lost. One of the most exciting wins was by Andrew Fahlsing (12) in the 145-pound class. Andrew defeated his DeKalb opponent in the first round, with an overwhelming takedown that earned six points for the team score.

"I went hard, finished it quick. I felt pretty good about my match. Everyone else is also doing pretty well, most people are being very aggressive, and we are dominating our matches," Andrew Fahlsing (12) said

Kyle Luithly (10) was competing in his first match as a varsity wrestler. After being on J.V. last year, Kyle replaced Derrick Hackler ('06) in the 130-pound weight class. Kyle proved to be an effective asset as he won 7 points to zero. He came close on many occasions for a takedown, but was not able to quickly end the match, and had to win by a greater number of points over the rounds. Other than physical fitness, Luithly believes that wrestling will prepare him in many other ways for his future.

"...when you win that big match, you know that all the hard work pays off."

Kyle Luithly (10)
Boys Varsity Wrestler

"Wrestling gives discipline, to go to practice every day. To cut weight, and having to watch what you eat. It makes it a lot harder, but when you win that big match, you know that all the hard work pays off," Luithly said.

This year the wrestling team started their preseason practices in September. The team essentially practices all year long, even in the spring and summer, off-season time. This intense practice is what many wrestlers including Luithly and Shane Ruckel (11) consider what has made the wrestling team so strong this year.

"As a team, we are probably one of the best wrestling teams Homestead has had in the last ten years, if not the best, but we still have a lot of work to do. We wrestled well today... but we wanted to wrestle at a higher level than this," Ruckel said.

The wrestling team has spent intense hours of training to wrestle as well as they did against DeKalb. During practices the team hones their techniques, and wrestlers have matches with each other after warming up. Another important part of their practices include various drills, in which the team practices their takedowns, leg attacks, and breaking down when positioned on top.

"Our practices are really intense; we start off with about a 15-minute warm-up, and then we drill technique. Then we really crank it up with harder drills, and live matches," Luithly said.

Two of the team's important skills were being able to win by points and by takedowns. During the match with DeKalb, several wrestlers won by take downs as well as by points. Justin Wight (11) in the 112-pound weight class defeated his opponent, 10-1. Some of the wrestlers thought that Wight had the best performance in the Tuesday night match versus DeKalb.

"Justin Wight, he is a tough wrestler, never lets go, and he brings everything he has no matter who he is wrestling with," Ruckel said.

The varsity wrestling team won on Tuesday, November 28 with the support of the crowd. Now, they will try to go for another win at the "C" tournament in DeKalb.

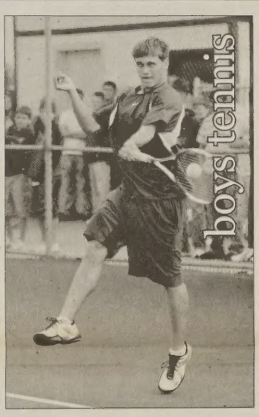
PRESEASON STATE RANKINGS

1. Evansville Mater Dei
2. Perry Meridia
3. Mishawaka
4. Merrillville
5. Columbia City
6. Indianapolis Cathedral
7. Franklin
8. Bellmont
9. Warren Central
10. Crown Point
11. Bloomington South
12. Portage
13. New Palestine
14. Carmel
15. Elkhart Memorial

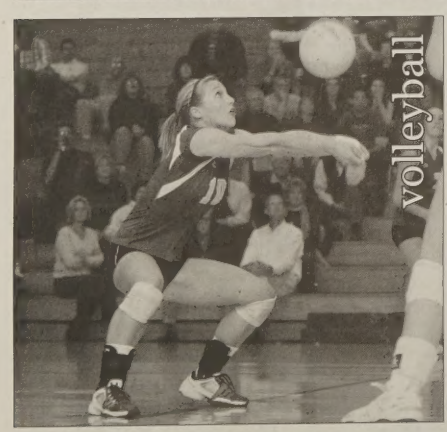
Uniforms have been returned, playing fields abandoned, seniors have bid their goodbyes, but *The Spartana* chose to present one last look at the...

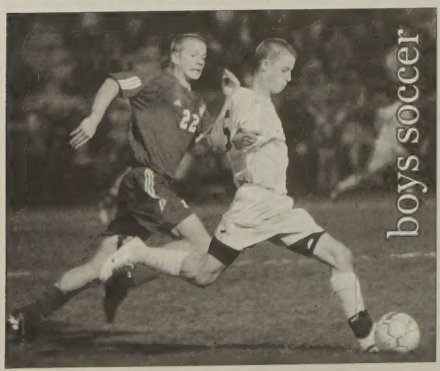
fall sports 2006

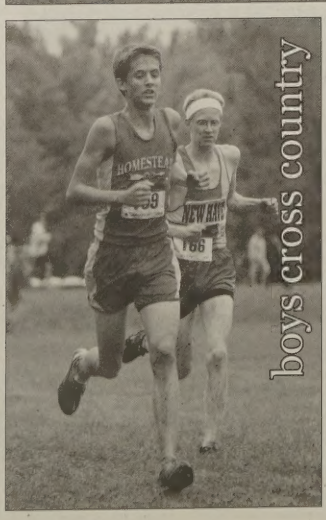
photos by zach hetrick and tennis by suzie reecer

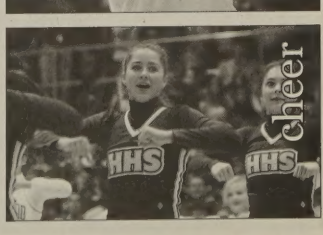


Football: Ross Heckber (11), Taylor Pyle (12) and Nick Edwards (11) celebrate after Heckber dashed for 50 yards. **Girls Cross Country**: Erin Blum (12) strides past a flag at the cross country conference meet. **Boys Tennis**: Cameron Huffman (12) reaches for the ball at the State Finals during his final match. **Volleyball**: At her last home game, Taylar Meeks (10) digs the ball. **Boys Soccer**: Tom Gallmeyer (10) dribbles the ball away from a Canterbury defender. **Boys Cross Country**: Brandon Saalfrank (11) pushes past a New Haven competitor at the cross country Conference meet. **Cheer**: Ashley Hockney (11) and Kara Hackett (10) lead the school cheer at the first pep rally. **Girls Golf**: Kelsey Lamphier (12) follows through on her swing. **Girls Soccer**: Kelsey Knapp (11) pulls her way around a Northrop defender.









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fort wayne, indiana 46814
the spartana

EXPLORING DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE
SPECIAL INSERT

Friday, December 22, 2006

CARTOON SHANE LUTTRELL

CHRISTMAS IN SCHOOL?

Political quagmire over greetings, celebrations, decorations in classroom

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

"Merry...Happy...Oh never mind." For many public high schools across the country, the holiday season brings more controversy than peace—the "December dilemma," as it has been dubbed, has arrived. Many would like to see Christmas or Hanukkah decorations decking the hallways, others demand that religious holidays remain out of school altogether. Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) has no official stance on this issue but for some here, there are unwritten laws.

"I think everyone feels a slight urge to conform to society's political correctness," John Morrison (12) said. "There is a little bit of pressure out there to be non-offensive, but I think it gets a little overkill at times."

"Nothing is specifically mandated, but it's kind of given that in a public school that you shouldn't say 'Merry Christmas,'" French teacher Gregory Fryzel said.

Students are quick to point out that eliminating 'Merry Christmas' as a greeting isn't going to solve the issue of religion in school.

"I don't think saying 'Merry Christmas' is any more inappropriately religious than having a moment of silence every morning, but I don't think it's a big deal, either way," Nathan Fisher (11) said.

"'Happy Holidays' is the safer way to go. 'Merry Christmas' isn't politically correct and there are so many people out there who don't have the same belief as you," Jessica Hall (11) said. "In a public setting you should go with 'Happy Holidays,' but if you are with your friends and people you

see CHRISTMAS on page 2A

BRIEFS

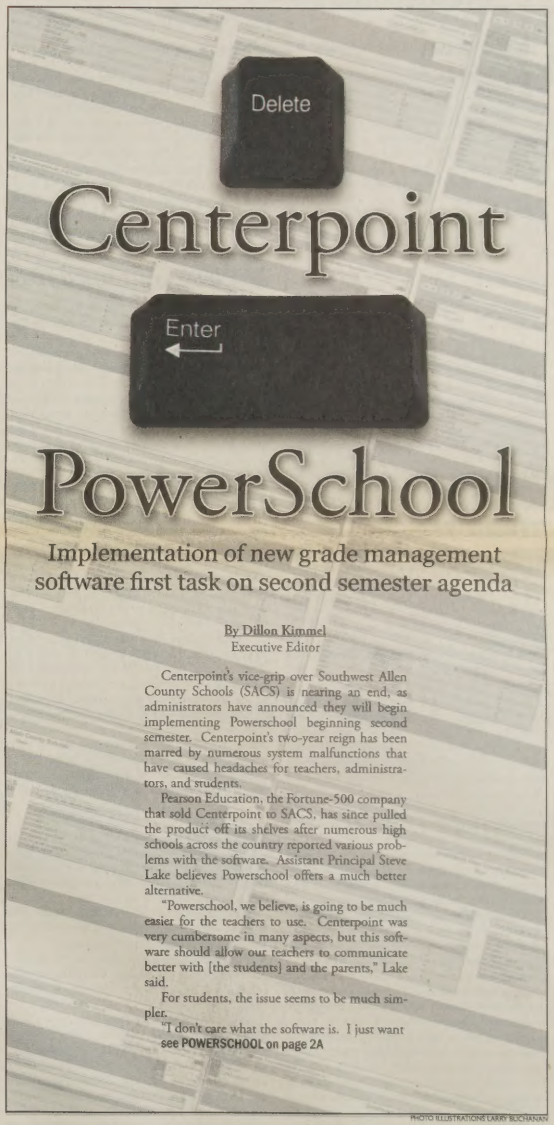
SMITH SEEKS LAW CHANGE
SACS superintendent met with Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed to revise the drill requirements for the state. Smith is seeking a mandatory lockdown drill for Indiana schools. State Senators David Long and Theresa Lover have backed Smith's plan and are carrying it to the general assembly for review. State statute currently requires two tornado and four fire drills every month, but no lock down.

TEAM SPONSORS CHARITY DRIVE
The girls basketball team held their annual holiday drive to help needy families. The team raised a total of $310 and spent time purchasing items that the families asked for including cd players, books, and clothing. The girls look forward to this day every year because it is a way to spend time with their team mates off the court and help people at the same time. The team met at Wal-Mart to purchase items as a team.

ISTEP+ RESULTS
The ISTEP results are in for 2006 -2007. Freshmen scores dropped 2% iin language arts from the previous year and 3% in math. Sophomores dropped 3% in language arts and 5% in math. The percentages are the proportion who pass the exam.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: District to add defibrillators to elementary schools
PAGE 3A, Opinions: Fuzzy Edges-Poker helps teens bring out their aggressive side
PAGE 4A, Life: Holiday charities
PAGE 5A, Life: English Teacher Scott Hill
PAGE 6A, Life: Seasonal music reviews
PAGE 7A, Life: 'Blood Diamond' with Leonardo DiCaprio scores a hit
PAGE 8A, Photo: Winter sportraits
PAGE 1B, Sports: An interview with former Spartan and MLB player Bowen
PAGE 2B, Sports: Gymnastics coach deals with breast cancer diagnosis
PAGE 3B, Sports: Kendra Dyson (9) overcomes a tall order



Implementation of new grade management software first task on second semester agenda

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Centerpoint's vice-grip over Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is nearing an end, as administrators have announced they will begin implementing Powerschool beginning second semester. Centerpoint's two-year reign has been marred by numerous system malfunctions that have caused headaches for teachers, administrators, and students.

Pearson Education, the Fortune-500 company that sold Centerpoint to SACS, has since pulled the product off its shelves after numerous high schools across the country reported various problems with the software. Assistant Principal Steve Lake believes Powerschool offers a much better alternative.

"Powerschool, we believe, is going to be much easier for the teachers to use. Centerpoint was very cumbersome in many aspects, but this software should allow our teachers to communicate better with [the students] and the parents," Lake said.

For students, the issue seems to be much simpler.

"I don't care what the software is. I just want

see POWERSCHOOL on page 2A

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS/ CARRY BUCHANAN

Updegrove next athletic director, Johnson to WMS

By Meghan McArdle
Writer

The search for a new athletic director is complete. Joe Updegrove, currently assistant principal at Woodside Middle School, will join the high school staff in the 2007-2008 school year; he replaces the retiring John Ankenbruck. Assistant principal Chris Johnson will replace Updegrove at Woodside next year.

AD Joe Updegrove

Asst. Principal Johnson

As athletic director, Updegrove will be responsible for relations with student-athletes, coaches, parents, interscholastic policies and procedures within the conference, ensuring student athletes fulfill eligibility requirements, and seeking new ways to gain financial support for high school athletics. He'll also play a role in media and community relations.

"I am looking forward to the change. It will be a good opportunity after having been in the discipline aspect of schooling for so long to move into a different job," Updegrove said.

Woodside's assistant principal opening will be filled by Johnson.

"I decided to make the change for various reasons. I have a lot of respect for Rick Smith, the principal at Woodside, and we discussed three or four years ago the possibility that if a position were to ever open up that we would discuss it. It's also a good school," Johnson said.

Johnson, who is the head boys' basketball coach, will return in that position next year.

"It has already been discussed and I will continue to coach the basketball team," he said. "I enjoy coaching a lot because it's very similar to teaching. Also, the game is a lot like life and I like instilling passion in the young adults I coach."

Both Updegrove and Johnson have been in their current positions for eight years. Updegrove previously spent time as a teacher, assistant principal, and athletic director at DeKalb Middle School. Johnson taught for several years prior to becoming an assistant principal.

District Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith and the group which chose Updegrove were looking for specific requirements in a new athletic director: experience, a current administrator's license, administrative experience, and an individual who had been an athletic director previously.

see UPDEGROVE on page 2A

Staff returns from Arizona with ideas for grant money

Funds to be spent on implementing smaller learning communities - staff to mentor students

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

With the largest senior class in the school's history set to graduate, the school's population is projected to expand even further in the coming years. With a large student body—over 2,000—some officials are worried that education is losing individualized student-teacher connections. Smaller learning communities (SLCs) seek to fix this problem. In order to learn how to implement SLCs, Smith, guidance counselors, and department heads traveled to Arizona for a seminar hosted by the Federal Department of Education.

"We don't want students to get lost in the numbers," Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith said. "The objective of smaller learning communities is to try and work with students in smaller groups so they can be given more individualized attention."

The goal of the SLC program is for students to meet every two-three weeks with a staff member who will function as a mentor. The staff member is to help students with any academic problems; grades, colleges, and scheduling.

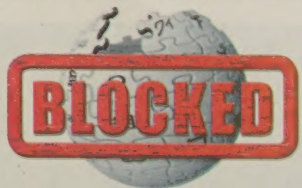
"If students want to go into the legal, political, medical, science, or any other profession, they should have the opportunity to receive instruction to help them achieve their goals. Just talk; don't let anybody fall through the cracks."

SACS participation at the event was sponsored by a $927,000 Gates Foundation grant given to promote SLCs.

"The main purpose of the trip was to learn from the federal government – the folks in Washington – how to implement changes," Smith said.

"At the conference, suggestions were made

see ARIZONA on page 2A



Proxies, filters, IPs: the battle over web content

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

Done with his work, a student scans the room for librarians, and then tries to access his favorite website for gaming articles. The red censor screen flashes up—an all too familiar sight—and the student finds his way to a proxy server to help himself out. After being nailed—sentenced to supervised internet use for a semester—the student knows better than to try to outsmart the district's Internet filters. After several years' improvements,

see BLOCKED on page 2A

WEB LINGO-
PROXIES DEFINED:

When a computer uses requests a website, normally the request goes directly to the server.

But with a proxy, the request is stopped in the middle as the proxy tries to fulfill the user's request on its own.

District will add defibrillators after break

After change in state law, school board shells out funds for six new AEDs, Deer Ridge death highlights benefits

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

After a change in state and district policy, Southwest will add a defibrillator to each of the elementary schools, the central office, and the maintenance and transportation center. Used to jump start stopped hearts, the district will become one of the few in the state to have a defibrillator in each of its main buildings.

In July, a state law requiring that those who use defibrillators be certified was changed and that requirement removed, prompting a change in SACS policy at the Dec. 19 school board meeting, and the purchase of the new devices.

"With the change in the law, not requiring someone in that facility to be trained to use it, I think it makes sense to have it as many locations as we can," human resources director Phyllis Davis said. "We still have the responsibility to insure that it's in working order."

Before the change in policy only district employees who had volunteered for training had been certified to use the devices, and the only employees certified had all been at the middle and high schools. Summit Middle School currently has two defibrillators, Woodside one, and the high school two. Administrators hope to have the new devices in place by the first of the year.

"It's a nice comfort to have them there," Crum said. "I think it's a safe enough process that anyone should be able to use it, and it's covered under the Good Samaritan law like anything else."

The Good Samaritan law protects well-meaning individuals who accidentally injure a victim in an accident while attempting to help them.

"I don't think [the change] is going to be damaging to anyone, probably in the long run," Crum said.

Davis is advocating general training for all SACS employees in order to make everyone in the building aware of the devices.

Davis consulted with school nurses and the district's medical director before deciding on a model. They chose based first on ease-of-use and quality of product, but also with an eye on the price tag. The model they chose, produced by Philips Electronics, will cost $1,170 each, with an additional $167 for a backup battery, and almost $200 for a box to keep the device in.

"What fire extinguishers meant for safety in public buildings in the 20th Century, defibrillators are becoming for the 21st Century," a Philips advertisement reads.

SACS will have to pick up the tab for the devices out of its general fund. The state does not offer any additional financing for the devices in schools.

AEDs

Automated External Defibrillators-used to jumpstart stopped heart

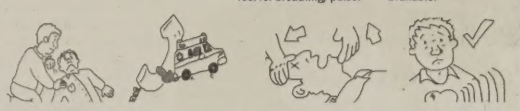
$1,170 each

Model SACS chose: Philips Heartstart FR2

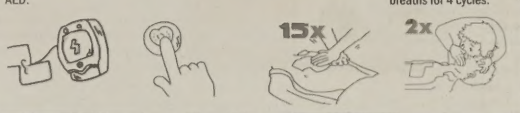
WHAT TO DO

A helpful guide for what to do if you see someone collapsed on the ground. Please realize that it is always better to let a trained professional do this. Do what you can to help, but always call 911.

1. Ask if they are ok.
2. If not, call 911.
3. Perform the head tilt, chin lift. Look, listen, and feel for breathing/pulse.
4. If they are not breathing, find an AED, if available.



5. Follow instructions given by the AED.
6. Shock the victim.
7. Perform CPR, 15 chest compressions.
8. Give 2 breaths. Keep cycle of 15 com. to 2 breaths for 4 cycles.



Deaths highlight benefits of defibrillators

On Nov. 16 an after-school basketball game at Deer Ridge Elementary turned tragic when a man collapsed. Despite the best efforts of his fellow players, a doctor and cardiac nurse who had been at a Cub Scout meeting, and firefighters who arrived on the scene, they could not restart the man's heart. Initially the man's friends went in search of a defibrillator—but there was none to be found in the school.

With the care he received and the application of trained CPR, there is no way of knowing for sure whether a defibrillator would have made a difference, but the incident highlighted the benefit that additional defibrillators may provide. When firefighters arrived on the scene they used their own defibrillator and applied at least four shocks, but were unable to revive the man.

"You look back on it now and you wish you had one in every building," Davis said. "We will proceed to do that. We were attempting to look into [purchasing more defibrillators] and unfortunately this happened. I think it's probably moved [the process] forward a bit faster. I certainly would wish that we would have had one there. But we didn't have procedures in place at the time. It's very unfortunate."

Because a doctor and cardiac nurse were on the scene, a trained operator would have been available in the Nov. 16 incident.

In Marion county, 15-year-old Josh McCormick died a week after having been revived by a defibrillator. The Mississinewa High School freshman athlete collapsed during a morning basketball practice Dec. 6. McCormick's school district is now considering placing defibrillator's in all of their buildings.

McCormick's parents have started a fund in their son's name to purchase the devices in public schools, and a local hospital donated defibrillators for the entire school district.

Christmas, continued from page 1A

know, [saying] 'Merry Christmas' is fine."

Federal judges have ruled both ways on the issue—students and teachers are allowed to express their beliefs and celebrate the holidays, but, according to most legal experts, only with an "academic" purpose.

The SACS administration has taken a moderate policy on the issue. Other districts in the area have actually sponsored decorations (North Manchester high school has a large tree in it's commons) and others have banned decorations for the holidays altogether.

"We urge everyone to be sensitive to everyone's beliefs and differences," assistant principal Jennifer Bay said. "We want them to understand that we are a diverse school and we are getting more and more diverse as far as nationalities and religious affiliations go, and we should be sensitive to that."

Some, including Bay, view the holiday as so commercialized that parts of it are essentially secular.

"Christmas could just be a time of celebration, it doesn't' have to be connected to Christ unless it's peoples drive to do so," Bay said. "It's become a commercial thing…when on Halloween you can see Christmas trees in the stores."

Many religious officials are unhappy with this interpretation, but with the wide variety of people celebrating the commercial aspect of the holiday, it is growing in popularity.

"I'm Hindu, but my family still puts up a Christmas tree, I think they take the whole 'Happy Holidays' thing a little too far," Sanjay Gunashekar (11) said.

"Christmas is particularly hard. In the western world it is expected that everyone celebrate Christmas—it's so common and it's infiltrated our culture. It's lost it's meaning as a Christian holiday and become a marketing word," Fryzel said.

Despite the new connotation of Christmas, the school has not endorsed this commercial interpretation—the hallways remain clear of garlands, no tree sets in the commons. Some staff members keep trees in their rooms or workspace, others include some holiday study into their lessons prior to the break.

"The goal of the school is to promote understanding and education, being a human and being understanding of who people are," Bay said.

"[Christmas in school] is not a big issue to me if it makes us more sensitive to differences in people's beliefs," Fryzel said. "We never know who we are offending. For the most part, students are sensitive."

Many argue off of the basis that Valentine's day based off of the Catholic Saint, Valentine, and St. Patrick's day, also based off of a religious icon.

"I just hate the way everything is becoming politically correct, we should focus less on not trying to offend people and more on enjoying whichever holiday we celebrate," Morrison said. "People who don't like Merry Christmas probably aren't getting gifts from Santa anyway."

Blocked, continued from page 1A

the district-wide Internet policy has some students questioning the control, but administrators stand by their system.

"The filters are so strong, they might as well restrict all sites not connected to the SACS homepage," Raoul Gupta (11) said.

Schools who want federal funding for technology and Internet must use filters to control what students can and cannot see. In 2000 Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) started using their own internet connection after relying on Ft. Wayne Community Schools' Internet.

"[A filter] is necessary," Linda Furman, IMC media specialist, said. "Most parents would love to have such capabilities to protect their kids from inappropriate internet sites. It's true that some reliable information may be blocked from access at school."

Assistant Principal Steve Lake points out that businesses have had similar programs to keep their internet connections and networks in order, including control of E-mail addresses.

"With teachers there was a big uproar when all of a sudden we weren't allowed to use our E-mail addresses [at school]. You can't control all the different viruses coming in through different people, so we went to a SACS E-mail address and all the other addresses were blocked. There was a grumble about that…" Lake said. "But when you talk to people in the business community they say, 'Well we've been doing that for years.'"

Senior computer and network manager with the Computer, Media, and Technology (CMT) Mark East points out that the filters are not rigid, but are constantly being updated.

"We don't actively go out and look for sites, we just don't have the time," East said.

Filters can block pages based on content and entire websites. Last year, the online encyclopedia Wikipedia was blocked, and students who used the open-forum site were startled to find that the site was blocked. The Wikipedia ban was the result of Homestead students posting false information on the site outside of school hours.

"Wikipedia contacted us and said if we didn't block access to their site on our side, they would block our IP range on their side," East said.

Students who are tech-savvy attempt to get around the internet blocks by using proxies, or servers that act as mediators between the web browser and the server being accessed. IMC media specialist Linda Furman says that students who try to use proxies are just wasting their time.

"The IMC does seem to be the place where students try to use proxies to access unacceptable sites," Furman said. "However, we can monitor every computer, so this is foolish behavior."

Students who evade the censors can receive computer-use suspension unless supervised. Using the IP address and the student ID, administrators can find out who was on the machine and what was accessed.

"Our goal isn't to make it difficult to do things. We're trying to make it as easy as possible for people to get to what they want while at the same time protecting the integrity of our network.

PowerSchool, continued from page 1A

to check my grades online," Grace Lundergan (12) said.

Lake insisted that students will still be able to access their grades via email, but he couldn't promise the arena scheduling will be reinstated.

"We are still looking into arena scheduling for next year…I can't sit here and say it's a done deal, but we are trying," Lake said.

The district's decision to make the software change in between semesters also raised concerns among students who believe the transition may fail to alleviate the problems immediately.

"They worked on [Centerpoint] all summer and didn't fix it, so it seems like changing [in between semesters] might make things worse," Katie Bessette (12) said.

Lake contends that the change is necessary now because of scheduling reasons.

"We start scheduling here really soon and we want to make sure we get [students] scheduled with Powerschool so that next year there won't be this mess. If we were to schedule in Centerpoint and do a data transfer into Powerschool, who knows what could happen," Lake said.

During the Jan. 16, teacher in-service, most teachers will be given training in the program. Students return on Jan. 17, and administrators hope to have Powerschool up and running by then. Several teachers have already received some training in the software. They share Lake's opinion that PowerSchool will serve the district much better than Centerpoint has.

"PowerGrade—the gradebook program in PowerSchool—is the only thing we were trained on. I think teachers will like it much better. All information from the gradebook can easily be managed on one screen," math department head T.J. McCombs said. "Most teachers won't need much training to understand how to use the gradebook portion of this program."

McCombs feels that PowerGrade offers other helpful features, among them the ability for teachers to leave notes and comments to parents checking their student's grades online.

Physical education teacher Mike Miller also received training and noticed differences in the attendance and seating chart functions.

"The attendance seems pretty easy to maneuver around plus the seating charts are easy to manipulate…things should work smoother than before," Miller said.

Lake believes the school was fully prepared for Centerpoint two years ago, but a faulty program and a dishonest company lead to the problems.

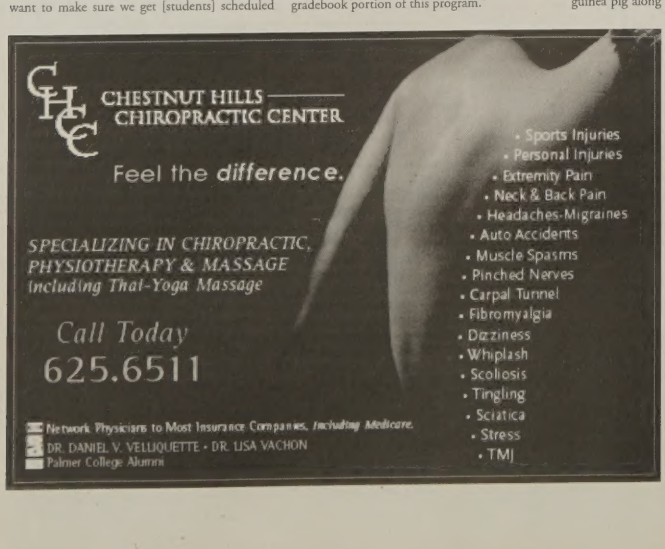
"Without question [we were mislead]. They told us that their product would do certain things and when we started using it we realized that not only does it not do certain things, but very few people out there have even tried it. We were a guinea pig along with some other schools in the Midwest and around the United States," Lake said.

To his knowledge, Lake did not know of any school that used Centerpoint that did not experience problems of some sort. In fact, he noted, many schools had it much worse than SACS.

"For other schools it was the first time they had an electronic gradebook, and they were a mess," Lake said.

Lake admitted there were lessons to be learned from Centerpoint, and sometimes staying on the cutting edge of technology can be negative.

"We're always on the cutting edge of stuff, and we always try to stay ahead," Lake said. "Sometimes with all these companies out there trying to compete with each other, anytime you try to stick your neck out you can get burned. I think what we learned from this is it's not always the best to be the first one on the block to have some neat software."



Updegrove, continued from page 1A

"Instead of posting or looking outside, we thought if we've got a good candidate in house, it's nice to be able to recognize it," Smith said. "I think he'll carry on a fine tradition, Mr. Ankenbruck was a great communicator, worked with a lot of people, created a lot of positive PR for the school out in the sporting community with other schools and I think Mr. Updegrove will carry on the same philosophy in dealing with people and programs, and maybe even expand our offerings, maybe offering more intramurals than we're doing now. We're excited."

Both men will miss their current schools.

"I will definitely miss the staff and my fellow administrators," Johnson said.

Updegrove agreed, "I will miss the people. Woodside's staff is amazing as well as the students."

They're also eager to begin again.

Arizona, continued from page 1A

about how to implement the grant money," science department head Tom Wanning said. "We discussed the possibility of having advisor groups where students go to a specific teacher during the year as a sort of mentorship program. We also discussed interventions and how to effectively conduct interventions – how to get support for students who are struggling."

So far, administrators have decided to create a team to come up with ideas on how to effectively use the grant.

"We have decided on having a group of ten members, called the 'steering committee,' to work together over the next month or so and come up with possible suggestions on what needs to be done," Wanning said.

"The way we use this grant will make a huge difference for students…English head Connie Christopherson said. "

Opinion

Fuzzy Edges

by Austin Hetrick

Poker: the equalizer

My friend Mike stands five feet seven inches tall, has never taken a drink, never shot a gun, never played football, swears only when repeating lyrics from songs or movie lines, and would never challenge anyone to anything. He has dimples. He's an honors student with a 3.8 and hopes to go to the University of Michigan for economics. He is the most unaggressive, quiet young man I know. He also happens to be a demon at poker.

The game brings out the inner animal in Mike. Every Friday we sit down at the table, and for the first time all week, my friends and I are a little afraid of him. What miracles will he pull off tonight? What insane calls will he make, huge hands will he catch...and how much will we be paying this little guy? From a quiet economics student, every week Mike becomes the He-Man of our poker table, doling out pain and pressure on other players with aggressive play and a stone cold poker face. For Mike, and for some of the other guys at our table, poker allows them to reveal an entirely different side of themselves.

Mike is frightening because you just don't know what he's going to do. When he's got chips in front of him and a hand of poker dealt, he's as dangerous as anyone else. It takes no muscle to bluff a guy twice his size.

What makes poker interesting to me is the fact that, on any given day, regardless of how well built a player is, he can still go down to a guy like Mike. Poker allows for David to kill Goliath at any minute. I know why our culture loves poker, it's the same reason we like video games: both allow you to assume a new persona. It's a variation on Clark-Kent syndrome, minus the spandex and laser vision.

Poker for my friends and I is not about imitating those guys on television—it's about doing our own thing, no matter how unglamorous that may be. There are no lights, announcers, card cameras or well-endowed women at our games—just five guys, duking it out over cards.

That's not to say that poker isn't a fantasy of sorts; it is without a doubt. When Mike leaves the poker table, he's still that meek little fellow again. Poker is an escape, a release, an evenings' worth of aggression—and he's good. But we're not going to make careers out of it.

For those of us who aren't a force on the football team, who don't drink, shoot, tackle, swear, or take risks anywhere else, the poker table is the home of our bad-ass alter egos.

Christmas wars in school

While more than 100,000 American soldiers battle an insurgency in Iraq, thousands of miles from the roadside bombs and bullets—in airports, courthouse lawns, and public schools—another less deadly yet equally "hot" conflict has been brewing: the "Christmas wars."

The "wars" have been waged in recent years as first liberal and then conservative organizations and individuals filed suit over what is an appropriate Christmas decoration, carol, concert, title, or greeting.

Wal-Mart last year embraced the "Happy Holidays" approach, which cost them the business of several religious groups including The Catholic League and The American Family League—needless to say its holiday business suffered. This year the company has returned to "Merry Christmas" greetings and renamed its "Holiday Shop" the "Christmas Shop."

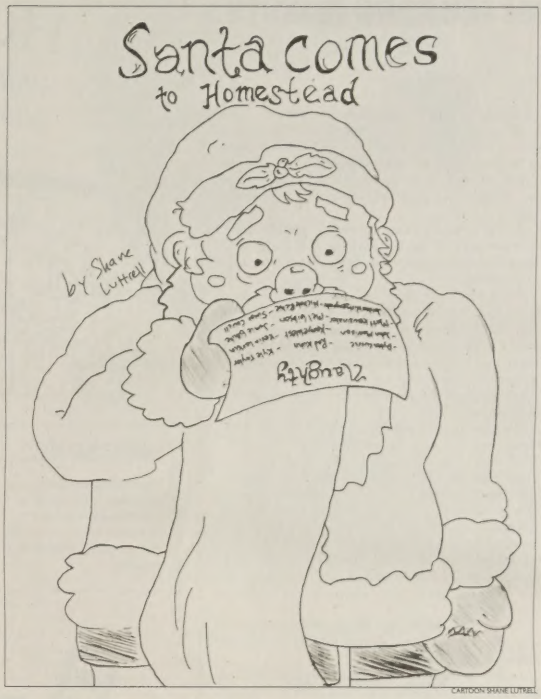
Earlier this month, a Seattle airport, after being threatened with a law suit by a local rabbi, removed a display of eight Christmas trees. Employees purchased their own—and the rabbi, whose only desire was to erect a menorah alongside the trees, took back his threat because the results were not what he wanted: he wanted to open the airport to all religions, not "kill" Christmas. The trees were reinstated.

The battle has also carried over into public schools. This December Homestead choirs will perform songs which do not shy away from Christian messages (they even considered performing "Ride on King Jesus," an African spiritual.) Some teachers and administrators have trees up in their rooms, and although we've now titled the break "Winter Break" it still stretches conspicuously over Christmas.

Charles C. Haynes, a senior scholar and director of education programs at the First Amendment Center has written a variety of commentaries on Christmas in school.

"The constitutional bottom line is stunningly simple: The school's approach to religious holidays must be academic, not devotional. The job of public schools is to educate students about religious holidays — not just in December, but throughout the year. That means schools should plan assembly programs that teach kids about a variety of religions and cultures, without making anyone feel like an outsider in his or her own school."

So what about a tree in a teacher's classroom? Songs in the band or choir's concerts devoted to Christ? Candy in shoes for the foreign language classes? The editorial board agrees with the main point Haynes makes: religion in school must be academic, not devotional. But we would also like to argue for common sense and practicality. Many teachers share parts of their lives outside school with their students—and just as they don't shed who they are at the door, neither should teachers shed their religion. Of course teachers cannot be granted a license to convert or preach to their students, but that does not stop them from speaking and displaying what they believe in.



CARTOON SHANE LUTRELL

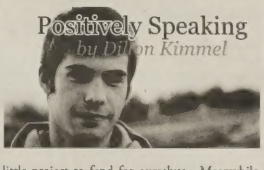
A teacher who is into the spirit of Christmas to the extent where he displays a Christmas tree should not be punished any more than a Jewish teacher would be punished for displaying a menorah—we must recognize that teachers, choir directors, and administrators are human—they don't always meet the constitutional ideals to the letter. Thus it is with tolerance and an eye for what is truly important that students should view Christmas displays: teachers are not trying to convert them.

The Editorial Board thinks that Christmas can't be sucked out of school. (Check out the tree we've set up in our office.) It deserves a place in our school just as any tradition does, and that place, as Haynes correctly points out, must remain academic not devotional. For students, parents, and those organization lawyers gearing up for another round of Christmas conflict, remember the practical side of things. Tolerance cuts in all directions—we must be tolerant of others' beliefs, but also the right express them.

Dear administration: please don't get fooled again

Positively Speaking

by Dillon Kimmel



An era has come to an end. Much to glee of teachers and administrators, Centerpoint is dead. Well, not quite dead but certainly on its final breath. After two years of wreaking havoc on the school, the administration will kick it to the curb first thing second semester.

When Pearson introduced Centerpoint 6.0 in July 2005, SACS was already committed to the system. The company's web site insisted this new and improved software was the king of student information and performance management systems.

"When you are researching and purchasing a new student information system, keep in mind that you are buying it for what it can do five years from now - not just what it can do for your today. We took that information to heart."

Oops. Not only will Centerpoint not be serving this district in five years, it won't be serving anybody anywhere. Pearson recently announced it is pulling the product off the shelves, and in an effort to cover up their outrageous error bought out their competition.

Pearson has since left us high and dry, retreating to a little corner and leaving this district and many others that they used as guinea pigs for their little project to fend for ourselves. Meanwhile, the software they promised would serve this district is crashing down around us. But what else is knew. Fortune 500 companies like Pearson can survive a little blip like this with little impact on their fiscal situations.

Nevertheless, we move on. And with that comes the end of an era. The brunt of countless jokes from students, parents, and teachers will cease to exist with Centerpoint's inevitable demise. Everything from long lunch lines to malfunctioning school clocks has been blamed on the ill-fated software. My favorite came last year, when a student who forgot his homework proclaimed to the teacher with utmost sincerity, "Centerpoint ate it!"

And while those are laughing matters, much of the damage Centerpoint has caused is not. Administrators were forced to rebuild the scheduling system last year after it proved completely worthless, and counselors dealt with repeated computer failures as they desperately tried to get kids scheduled in time. Throughout its tenure, Centerpoint has been a hassle for teachers, who have had problems with everything from posting and entering grades to setting up seating charts. Parents have complained they frequently cannot access Centerpoint from home, and students have voiced similar concerns.

So the administration finally threw in the towel. Instead of continuing to fight a war against a faceless enemy, they decided to chuck the hopeless software. Starting Dec. 17, they hope to have a new software, PowerSchool, up and running. But how can we know if this software will serve us any better? Teachers who have been trained in PowerSchool insist it is better than Centerpoint, but how can we know for sure?

The truth is we can't. The administration is rolling the dice again, but this time there is much more at stake. Beginning early second semester, the school will begin scheduling preparation for next year. In order to avoid a data transfer from Centerpoint to PowerSchool (heaven only knows what Centerpoint may have up its sleeve for that one) they are going to do all scheduling in the new software. And if it doesn't work as Assistant Principal Steve Lake thinks it should, things could get even uglier than last year.

But all we can do is hope for the best. That's what happens when you put yourself at the mercy of technology. We have to once again trust this company that they are delivering us a thoroughly tested, altogether better software than the junk we have already discarded.

I believe everyone involved is in a better place to handle this situation. Lake quickly admitted the administration has learned their lesson with Centerpoint. I have confidence that they will not lead us astray this time. But if PowerSchool doesn't perform, it will be the administration that will have some explaining to do, not the company who sold it to them. As the old saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

Members of the administration, please take the advice of The Who. "Let's not get fooled again."

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Editorial Policy

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

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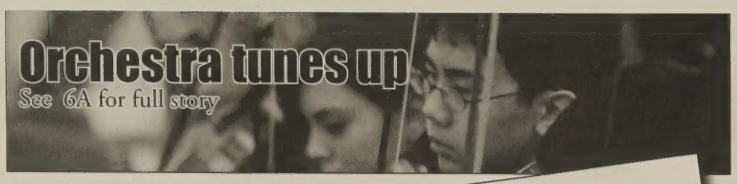
life



Orchestra tunes up

See 6A for full story

Friday, December 22, 2006

High accident rates for teenage drivers

By Taylor Harruff
Writer

A ten car pile-up, a skid into the ditch, running a stop sign, driving too fast in the snow. Supermen against all driving conditions, teen drivers take to the roads as new drivers with relatively little experience. And while not all student drivers can be characterized as reckless, teen drivers make up 14% of all deaths due to motor vehicle accidents. And the prevalence of high school car accidents doesn't stop at Homestead Road.

"In both situations there was nothing I could really do," Kyle Newcomb (11), who has been involved in two minor accidents in the past semester, said. "You just have to be careful of other drivers."

Teen drivers are at higher risk while on the road due to their inexperience with certain weather conditions and the unpredictable actions of other drivers. Studies have also shown that due to the average teen's late-night studying, they are at a higher risk to cause or be involved with an automobile accident caused by drowsiness.

Jeremy Messuri (11) was involved a four vehicle crash earlier in the year.

"The cause of the accident was mainly just inexperience," Messuri said. "Someone just misjudged their stopping distance, which lead to the accident."

Every year new classes of students step into the freedom of driving. But earning a driver's license and having the sense of independence most drivers experience comes with a higher risk of injury or death.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 16 year-old drivers have the highest crash rate of any age of driver. For a 16-year old driver, having more than three passengers in the car increases the risk of a fatal accident by 182%.

The NHTSA reports that driving distractions, such as interaction with passengers, are responsible for an estimated 30% of all traffic accidents.

Car insurance companies have caught on to the high risks that teens bring with them as they step into the world of driving; as a result, car insurance costs and premiums are higher for students between the ages of 16 and 20.

Accidents that occur on school property are becoming increasingly common as the number of student drivers increases each year. This year, all sophomores with a license are able to buy a parking permit.

The administration does their best to keep congestion in the parking lot and surrounding area at a minimum with several police officers who aid in directing traffic at the common intersections. Still, a fair amount of the accidents that take place at the school are never reported.

"The most common accidents here are 'hit skips', where someone will be pulling in or out of a parking spot, and hit the car next to them, and then just leave," said Officer Wayne Redding. "That's actually a jail-able offense."

BY THE NUMBERS

Student drivers at Homestead:

69 SOPHOMORES

322 JUNIORS

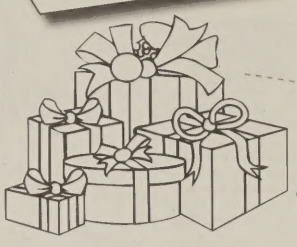
401 SENIORS

Traffic violations: 101

Cancelled tickets: 47

To: HOLIDAY CHARITIES

With the holiday season here, school-wide efforts take place to help those in need



PRESENTS

The girls basketball team was given a list of underprivileged children in the community and bought presents for them.

CANNED FOOD/MONEY

Student government sponsored a canned food drive to collect food to donate to the Community Harvest Food Bank. They also accepted monetary donations.

USED CELL PHONES

Key Club is collecting old and used cell phones to give to the company PaceButler. The money received from PaceButler will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation, which provides terminally ill children with their last wishes.

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

The holiday season is quickly coming upon us, bringing with it charities for the less fortunate in the area. Several organizations around the school are sponsoring these charitable actions.

Student government was in charge of the canned food drive that ended last Wednesday. Jay Hammel's fifth period biology class won the award: a pizza party after donating over a thousand canned goods.

"We are collecting cans for the Community Harvest Food Bank so less fortunate families can have a nice Christmas. We also are accepting monetary donations," student government representative Sam Chapman (10) said.

Last year, student government sponsored a book drive, collecting 20,647 books that were later used to start a library in Kingston, Jamaica. This year, though, their efforts are aimed at the immediate community.

"Although the people we are helping with the food drive are local, they are in need, just as those in Kingston, Jamaica," Galen Harden (12) said. "The greatest difference, in my opinion, is what is being donated. With the book drive, it was primarily books that families were no longer using, rather than food that is still useful to anyone."

The girls' basketball team recently shopped for presents that will be given to children. The team does this yearly to help support the community.

"We were given the names of underprivileged kids and a list of what they would like to have then we bought whatever they wanted," Stephanie Mitchell (12), a member of the team, said.

Used cell phones that are no longer wanted can be given to Key Club, which is collecting them until well after break. Instead of throwing out old phones, the phones will be turned in to the company PaceButler in exchange for money.

The amount of money Key Club receives for each phone will depend on the type and age of the phone, and the money received from this project will be donated to the Make a Wish foundation, which provides terminally ill children with their one wish.

There are collection boxes in both student services and the freshman academy office for these phones, which will be used in places without developed telephone systems, given to those in less fortunate situations, reprogrammed for emergency 911 use, and for environmental preservation.

"There are a lot of old people in our community and poor people that just don't have easy access to cell phones and get in situations where they need help and don't have any way of getting it," Anna Smith (10) said. "With a cell phone, an older person could fall and break their hip and not be able to get up, and EMS becomes three digits away for them."

For many, the holidays are not as warm as they should be; with the various charities around school, students and staff hope to make a difference.

"Bringing in donations will help the less fortunate families of Fort Wayne to have a little happier holiday season," Chapman said.

Other schools in the Fort Wayne area are also getting charitable. Every year, Concordia High School participates in the Christmas Bureau. Each class is responsible for a family for whom they collect canned food as well as money to buy other things that can't be brought in. After the students have finished the drive, they get together and package items to be distributed to their families.

"The Christmas Bureau is a Fort Wayne project where not very fortunate families go apply for a gift certificate to a grocery store and a list of general needs," Josh Reibs, a sophomore at Concordia, said. "Usually it's things like bed sheets and other things they wouldn't have money to buy."

Students who participate in any of these charities will be helping members of the community and giving them the opportunity to have an enjoyable holiday season.

"We're helping out and it makes me feel like a good human being," Mitchell said.

The new year arrives, old final exams stay

Last semester finals to be held two days after a two-week winter break

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

When the bell rings this afternoon, students will flood the hallways, coats and hats meshing in a rush to leave school. The cold outside won't stop students from spending the next two weeks taking trips, seeing movies, sledding, and just simply hanging out. But this year's winter break will be combined with studying for the upcoming finals as students try not to forget everything they have spent the last 18 weeks trying to learn. With finals two days after students return to school, winter break is getting a new look.

"When we get back from break, the first few days are going to be a cram city," Doug Waldman, science teacher, said.

After students return to school on Jan. 8, semester finals begin on Jan. 10 and continue with a half day of testing on Friday, Jan. 12. The new schedule leaves students feeling that finals have been poorly placed.

"The break is just going to be more time for me to do nothing and forget the material," Evan Snyder (10) said.

The schedule was approved by the school board, but according to board member John Blum, the schedule comes "formulated" from the central office administration after conference with all administrators in the district.

"It is very difficult to set a calendar with so many competing interests involved in the process," Blum said. "Obviously, there are 'many dogs in the fight,' and it can be extremely hard to come up with effective solutions for the entire student body."

"I think it is a joke. It is winter break, I am not going to be studying," Skyler Villers (12) said.

Finals in most classes count somewhere between ten to twenty percent of a student's semester grade. The semester grade is a combination of the first nine weeks, the second nine weeks, and the final exam grades. Semester grades are the grades that show up on student transcripts.

"It is unrealistic to think the students will come back from a two week break and remember everything they learned," Sean Harkness, a social studies teacher, said. "I normally would have reviewed more than just two days with them. I think the students who want an A will still work hard and be prepared though, but those other students who just blow it off will struggle."

With an earlier start to school this fall, many assumed that finals, too, would be moved before winter break.

"I thought when we had moved the calendar ahead this year it would put finals before break, but it obviously didn't work that way," Waldman said.

Students and teachers agreed that having finals before break would be very helpful to the students since all the information would be more current in the memory. Blum too voiced that he would have preferred finals before break, but points out that with ISTEP+ testing mandated in the fall, there is little room for maneuverability.

"I did not like the fact that semester finals commenced on the third day after return from holiday break and expressed such," Blum said. "I would ideally like to see the semester end at Christmas break, but as long as ISTEP+ is mandated in the fall, that will be physically impossible."

But the scheduling for finals poses a unique problem for the seniors who are taking college courses. Many higher-ed students have already taken their finals and will start their new college classes before high school is back in session in the new year. As a result, students will split the time over winter break between college courses and finals. With the current controversial placement of finals after break, the issue is certain to come up again when the 2007-2008 schedule is drawn. This time, Blum said, he hopes things will be different.

"What little [feedback] I've received has been negative," Blum said. "If this issue arises again, I will push more decisively for better solutions or alternatives to the problem in an effort to eliminate it [from] occurring again."

STERLING SENTINEL

Nominees for 2007:

Puja Parikh (Speech)
Austin Hetrick (English Literature)
Galen Harden (Math)
Emma Farnsworth (Drama)
Larry Buchanan (Journalism)
Jordan Wise (Athletics)
Grace Lundergan (Foreign Language)
Karolina Heyduk (Social Studies)
Susan Watrous (Art)
Kelly Landrigan (Music: Instrumental)
Meg Warner (Music: Voice)
Andrew Schroeder (Business)
Hari Vasu (Science)
Caitlin McPherson (Vocational)

Students will compete through interviews against 15 to 20 other local school nominees in the beginning of March. Winners receive $1,500 each, with journalism winning $3,000.

Nick Weistkettel comes home

After transferring to Canterbury, Nick comes back to Homestead with new perspective

By Kara Hackett
Writer

Freshman Nick Weistkettel may seem like the average student, but his brown eyes have seen the hidden secrets that lie within the walls of Canterbury High School. It was neither the extensive work load nor the stressful daily quizzes that drove Nick back to Homestead; it was Homestead herself, along with her friendly student body that persuaded Nick to return.

After experiencing all of his chaotic transfers, Nick learned more than just the obvious differences; he re-discovered high school while in the shoes of a Canterbury student and gained a whole new perspective on Homestead. In the past few months, Nick has come to appreciate the true value of life as a Homestead student.

Spartana: Tell us about your switch between Homestead to Canterbury and back to here again.

Nick: I knew the baseball coach [at Canterbury]. He and I had a really tight relationship, and he just told me that it would be a better decision to go there because I would get more developed. My parents, of course, had an influence, but it was mainly because of the education and sports, I guess.

They told me that everyone was going to be really friendly and welcoming and stuff, and they kinda were. They are all very nice people, but they're kind of isolated. It's to the point to where they've been together since they were two, so it's not that they didn't really let me in, but they're an a lot more secluded society because they've been together for so long.

I mean our freshman class is twice the size of their whole school. Their grade only had 80 [students] in the freshman class, so I could only relate to maybe one or two kids. It was really hard to find people to have fun with.

Spartana: How did the sports aspect play out?

Nick: No, I never stayed long enough to actually do [sports]. That was the bad part. Baseball didn't start for another month or so. They have a no-cut policy [in athletics], so that no matter who joined, they got to play. They had Varsity, Junior Varsity, A team, B team and C team because some kids will just join to be there. It was a good experience.

Spartana: Moving back and forth isn't easy; what was the hardest part?

Nick: The hardest part was mainly the people. Here I have a lot of friends, and when I'm going down the hallways I see so many people and talk, but over there, I could see the same people everyday because of how small it was, but I knew two kids, so it's kind of different. People would be like, 'Who's this guy?' You know, starring at me because they haven't seen me all their life. That's one reason that kind of pushed me back over here because they were all pretty quiet and not very out-going.

[At Homestead] everyone's kind of close together. Everyone's kind of outgoing about everything, and they're not afraid to speak their mind, or hang out with [certain] kids. Everything works out; it's really cool. The students at Canterbury were all really kind people, and they were very nice, but here, kids are more open.

Spartana: What about the rich-kid stereotype that most Homestead students have about Canterbury students?

Nick: When I went there, they asked me the same questions about Homestead. They thought we were all rich kids and all stuck up and stuff like that, and I was like, 'No, we think the same thing about you.' They think the whole clique thing we have is like psycho. They don't really think anything bad of us, except in soccer and the other rivalries that we have. Some of the kids have outrageous things like two or three ipods and a bunch of cell phones. It's unusual, but to them it's normal, so it doesn't really matter.

Spartana: And the dress code? How was that?

Nick: Every first Friday of the month was a dress down day, and you could wear normal clothes. [Other than that] you have to follow the dress code. You have to have khakis and no jeans, and somewhat of dressy kind of shoe, a belt, and a tucked-in, collared shirt.

I personally don't think it matters. My English teacher there told me that mentally, if you're dressed better then you do better on tests, and you just have better self pride. They all look nice, but what difference does it make? I'm the same person here as I was there; I just looked prettier there.

Spartana: How does Homestead compare to Canterbury academically?

Nick: Everyone says Canterbury is outrageously hard, but it's really not too bad. The workload is harder, but it's the same curriculum. My studying habits here were horrible, but over there they got so much better because that's what they really focus on: studying and homework. They go a lot more in depth than we do. When I was there for English class, we read six books, and I was there for two months.

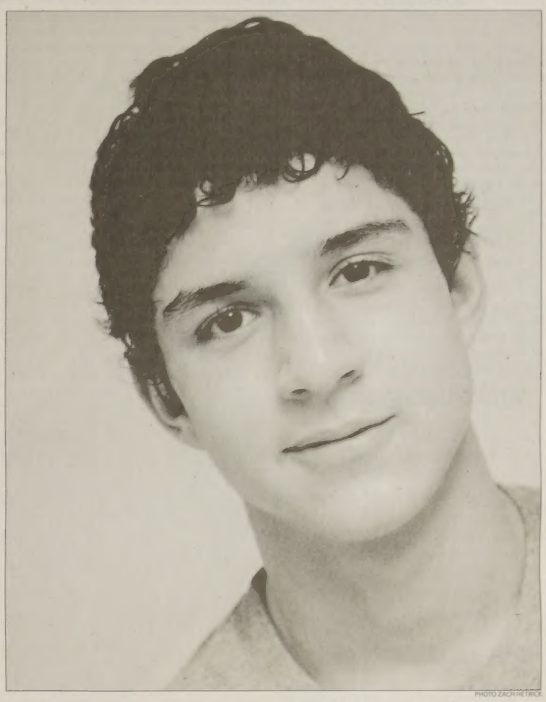


PHOTO ZACH METRICK

Here they're on their second book. When you study something, they make sure everyone knows it before they go on.

Spartana: And now you're back at Homestead. Home sweet home?

Nick: [The transfer back] was awesome because all my friends were back again and going to classes. [We] hung out almost every weekend, so it's not as bad as if I would have moved away, but still going to a different school meant I didn't see them everyday.

Nothing has really changed at all. Same classes, same people, and I almost have the exact same schedule. It's pretty neat, and I do miss some of the kids [at Canterbury], but they just aren't as good as friends, the people I have been going to school with since I was in Elementary school.

Hill: Airport Sightings

English teacher recounts his near-run-in with Sinbad at Fort Wayne International

It is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and I'm in the tiny cafe of the Fort Wayne airport waiting for a flight. A window separates the café from a bar on the other side of the security checkpoint and I am watching the cafe waitresses hold silent, lip reading conversations with the bartenders on the other side. They had a highly developed means of communication, one that required a variety of hand gestures and extremely animated facial expressions. Observing their mime was impressive on its own, but the stakes got higher when, after one mute, excited exchange, a waitress on my side of the glass turned to her colleagues and shouted "Sinbad is coming! He's on the next plane!"

> *"What goes through your head when you hear that Sinbad is coming to your town? Does one get excited?"*
>
> Scott Hill
> English Teacher

What goes through your head when you hear that Sinbad is coming to your town? Personally, I was at a loss. Does one get excited? Do you feel nothing? I found myself, as I often do, caught in some space of ambivalence between these two extremes.

Contrary to what our parents and Officer Friendly told us in our youth, one of life's great small pleasures is to initiate conversations with strangers. In line with this personal philosophy, I stepped to the small cafe counter and asked the waitress who looked best informed, "Why is Sinbad coming?"

"I don't know," she said.

Sure, I have had more satisfying conversations with strangers, but still, it was enough to pique my interest, and I decided to buy a small cup of bitter coffee, carry it over to a wobbly table, and wait, to wait for Sinbad.

Over the next five minutes or so I steadied my table with my shoe, scared that the coffee I didn't want would tip and scald me. With the airport ban on liquids, I worried that they would confiscate any wet clothing and I liked the pants I was wearing. So there I sat, half waiting for Sinbad, half watching a paper cup of coffee, and half watching waitresses gather at the front of the café to watch for Sinbad. One carried a small rag so that she could spread mildew and germs on the café tables while she waited.

The next plane, Sinbad's plane, must have been small because only a few people trickled down the escalator. The flight was a short one, from Chicago, and the arriving passengers carried small bags and small expressions as they calculated whether it was worth it to fly or if they should have driven.

Minutes passed and the escalator continued to operate, now empty but just as quiet and purposeful, somehow clinging to the hope that it would soon be carrying Sinbad into the city of Fort Wayne—he'd merely stopped to tie his shoe, perhaps, or to tour the small Baer Field museum. Escalators can't read body language like I can, though, and I could sense that we all knew something was not right. Soon enough, a bartender approached the café window and mimed a message that even I could read: "He's not on the plane. He missed the flight."

The waitresses returned to their counter, and I reopened an old Whatzup! newspaper, but I think we were all wondering if Sinbad had really missed the plane or if he just decided he did not want to come to our town. And, either way, I didn't know how I felt about it.

Early morning music

First period orchestra students practice throughout the year at the crack of dawn

By Megan Miller
Writer

Typically, first period is full of yawns and sleepy students whose eyes refuse to stay open, but not in Brad Wadkins' orchestra class. Every morning at 7:50, while stragglers are slouching into class with sheepish grins and drooping eyelids, the orchestra students rosin their bows and begin to play. And Wadkins, Homestead's orchestra director, has high hopes for his gifted students.

"The kids I work with are absolutely great. They're talented, always willing to work hard to learn new music, get along well together, and they know how to get things done," Wadkins said.

With Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) group competition in the spring, students prepare throughout the year with solo and ensemble ISSMA in the winter.

Students prepare for this all-day event by picking out music, practicing, performing, and then receiving a rating from the judges. Each year, a fresh group of highly talented students work individually and together to improve their musical talent.

Katie Romelfanger (12) has been playing the violin for six years, her inspiration stemming from her mother who used to play as well.

"Orchestra is a lot more fun than people might think. It is very rewarding to play great music and to work hard to be great at something," Romelfanger (12) said.

Students who play in the orchestra are not only enjoying their experience with music but gaining from it academically, too. According to the American Music Conference's website, "Middle school and high school students who participated in instrumental music scored significantly higher than their non-band peers in standardized tests."

Studies down by the University of Georgia and the University of Texas show "significant correlations between the number of years of instrumental music instruction and academic achievement in math, science and language arts.

"Playing the violin helps me in so many other things. It keeps me focused not only on my music, but on my schoolwork as well," Anna Orlow (10) said.

Unlike some orchestras, Homestead's orchestra doesn't limit itself to stringed instruments. Violins, violas, cellos are joined by flutes, clarinets, French horns, trombones, trumpets, oboes, bassoons, and percussion. The result, according to Romelfanger, is a wide-ranging orchestra that isn't afraid to stretch its limits.

"Having brass and woodwind instruments adds a lot more to the orchestra's sound and gives the music more depth and variation," Romelfanger said. "We can play a larger variety of songs since we don't have only strings."

"I think it is more interesting with more than just string instruments and it gives us more diversity and variety," Hannah Corral (12), orchestra headmaster, said.

More often than not, orchestra members are life members who have been playing their instruments since a young age. Maggie Peters (11) has been playing the cello for as long as she can remember.

"It gives me a chance to relax and just play my music," Peters said. "Orchestra is not only fun, but rewarding as well. I think it is something I'll be doing not just in high school, but I will continue to play when I get older."

"Each year, the students improve so much and it is fun to watch how they develop in learning how to use their musical talent," Wadkins said.

PHOTO ZACH METRICK

New vaccine for HPV available

FDA approves drug to aid the prevention of cervical cancer

By Annie Baenen
Writer

In the 2004 hit Mean Girls, Coach Carr teaches the facts of life to a group of high school students in health class: "you will get Chlamydia...and die." Carr's miserable attempt to teach practical knowledge about the sexually transmitted disease is a prime example of the ignorance that often surrounds the true dangers that STDs pose. While the Human Pappilomavirus (HPV) has been a known and diagnosable disease for decades, only recently has this elusive and dangerous STD come into the spotlight with links to cervical cancer and a new preventative vaccine.

"I think that HPV should be more known to the general public," Anne Witkewiz (12) said. "Most people aren't aware it is this serious. It is scary that...so few people actually know about it."

About thirty percent of the different varieties of HPV are transmitted through sexual contact; the remainder are common viruses like the flu. The majority of people who become infected with HPV will not have any symptoms and will clear the infection on their own.

Most types are undetectable and do not cause any harm. But the "high-risk" type of the HPV infection, if not treated, has been reported by the National Cancer Institute to be a "major cause of cervical cancer." In 2004, the American Cancer Society estimated about 10,520 women would develop cervical cancer and about a quarter of those cases would be fatal. The risks caused by HPV led the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve a new vaccine known as Gardasil in June 2006.

"I've seen the commercials for the virus, but I didn't really know that HPV was so prevalent, or that it was often symptom-free. It's kind of scary to think that you could have virus that could potentially give you cancer, and not even know it," Natalie Sistrunk (12) said.

Gardasil is a preventative vaccine that is administered in three shots injected into the upper arm. The FDA recommends that girls and young women ages 9 to 26 should be vaccinated with Gardasil.

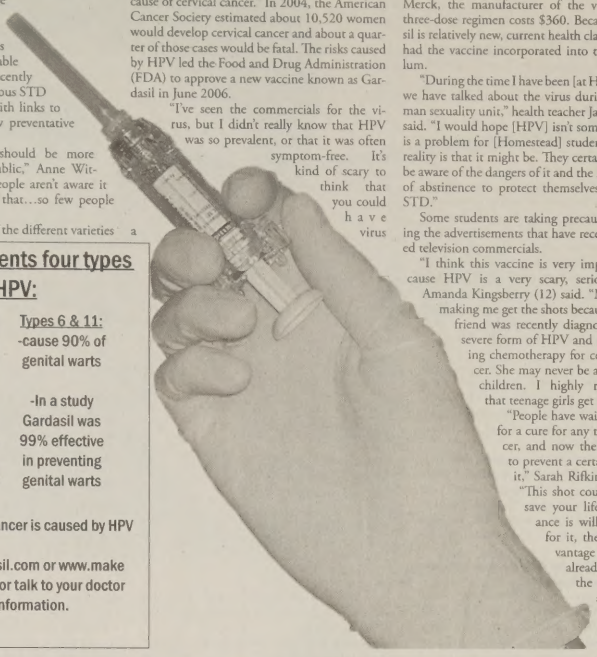
The session of three shots must be injected within one year to be effective. According to Merck, the manufacturer of the vaccine, the three-dose regimen costs $360. Because Gardasil is relatively new, current health classes haven't had the vaccine incorporated into the curriculum.

"During the time I have been [at Homestead], we have talked about the virus during our human sexuality unit," health teacher Jamie Frazier said. "I would hope [HPV] isn't something that is a problem for [Homestead] students, but the reality is that it might be. They certainly should be aware of the dangers of it and the importance of abstinence to protect themselves from this STD."

Some students are taking precaution, heeding the advertisements that have recently flooded television commercials.

"I think this vaccine is very important because HPV is a very scary, serious thing," Amanda Kingsberry (12) said. "My mom is making me get the shots because a family friend was recently diagnosed with a severe form of HPV and is undergoing chemotherapy for cervical cancer. She may never be able to have children. I highly recommend that teenage girls get this shot."

"People have waited so long for a cure for any type of cancer, and now there is a way to prevent a certain form of it," Sarah Rifkin (11) said. "This shot could possibly save your life. If insurance is willing to pay for it, then take advantage of that. I've already started the series, and suggest that other girls go get the shots, too."



Gardasil prevents four types of HPV:

Types 16 & 18: -cause 70% of cervical cancer

-In a study Gardasil was 100% effective in preventing cervical cancer

Types 6 & 11: -cause 90% of genital warts

-In a study Gardasil was 99% effective in preventing genital warts

99.7% of cervical cancer is caused by HPV

Go to www.guardasil.com or www.makethe connection.org or talk to your doctor for more information.

Holiday cheer still stays even after the sparkle has gone

By Emma Farnsworth
Columnist

'Tis the season and we all know the drill. The stockings are hung by the chimney with care, yards are bedecked with inflatable Santa's and icicle lights, and Starbucks rolls out the red cups and cranberry bliss bars. When we're young, it's pure magic, but as a cynical teenager, the shiniest time of year has become a little…dull. Sure, most of us love hot chocolate and candy canes, the scent of pine and cinnamon, the satisfying rip of crisp wrapping paper. Yet after elementary school, we cease to wait for Santa Claus and the jingling of bells becomes annoying: we've all been there, done that, bought the overpriced Polaroid with the cheesy cardboard frame. Tradition can be comforting, but sometimes it feels like I'm merely going through the motions.

I've now had eighteen Christmases, and they're all blending together. There were some milestones: the year I received my prized green soap, the year Nana fell through our kitchen ceiling while retrieving presents from the attic, the year I got a box full of Limited Too underwear. But overall, it's the same old, same old -- except now the presents are less exciting (we already kind of knew we were getting that cell phone), the songs are less special, and our cool older cousins have left the children's table. We're young adults: our desires and wishes extend beyond simple toys. My three year-old cousin Will shall be happy with a plastic "clarinet" and wooden blocks from Santa, while I want a college acceptance letter and a close-knit community of friends. We can no longer unwrap happiness.

The holidays are not really about gifts for us anymore, so instead, we focus on the people (which we really should have been doing in the first place but we were kids so nobody cared). The downside of growing up is that we can now view our idealized early role models at eye level. We never saw the flaws of our families before: we were too busy running around, grabbing cookies and peeking under the tree to notice.

Last weekend, my family drove to Racine, Wisconsin, to celebrate with my Dad's side of the family. Grandma and Grandpa still live in the house where my father grew up. Like everything else, it seems to get smaller each year (it's cliché, but true). Excitement used to settle in my stomach during the six hour drive as I anticipated the evening unwrapping and long Barbie games with my favorite older cousin, Kristin. Then Kristin hit adolescence and we drifted, growing up and apart and out of the common orbit of childhood. Our conversations were stilted. We became wrapped up in our separate lives. I barely even hugged her. This year as we turned into Grandma and Grandpa's driveway, I counted the hours I would have to spend in the cramped house with these people I did not know anymore, having moronic conversations about school and weather and the "latest" in mundane technology ("Oh, yes, digital cameras are so much easier").

That evening, though, after the brownies and thank-you embraces, Kristin came along on a walk with my parents and me. We lagged behind as I told Kristin about my college options, and she described her work at a treatment center for people with mental illness. It had been over five years since we had really talked. Strolling along the lake shore at dusk, it felt nice to reconnect with the girl

"Even if we have to fake it... we can at least give the joy to others although we don't feel it ourselves."

Emma Farnsworth (12)
Columnist

I had once admired, nice to know that she too had felt the split in our relationship. I felt comfortable and good telling her about feelings I couldn't really discuss with my parents or friends. She said she was sorry we had grown apart during her rough teen years. I told her that it wasn't anyone's fault – I was relieved that we could be friends again, only this time as equals. The secret wall of guilt and regret between us began to melt, but slowly, more like snow in the rain than an icicle in the sun. And that was okay. We exchanged phone numbers and E-mail addresses, and this time we really hugged. Maybe it wasn't a Christmas miracle suitable for an ABC Family Original Movie, but it still felt good.

As we pulled driveway the next morning, my sister Lily remembered that she hadn't given Grandma a good-bye hug. We stopped the car so she could run back up to the house. I watched from my seat through the van window and thought about all the Christmases that my grandparents had seen: happy and sad, exciting and boring. Yet they still found the joy in the season, even when others were sullen or bored. While Lily embraced my grandmother, who is now smaller than she is, I was proud of the love that her simple act showed. Even if we have to fake it, going through the motions of holiday traditions, we can at least give the joy to others although we don't feel it ourselves. We may not be guiding Santa's sleigh with our red noses, saving Christmas for Whoville, or even saving our homes from bumbling Yuletide robbers, but we can sit through an old story or sing along to carols. Little, unimportant actions can become Christmas magic, too.

Holiday music reviews

Same old Christmas songs done in three different ways

By Brad Lufkin
Writer

As mid-November rolls around, Christmas music starts popping up everywhere. Maybe it's to get everyone in the spirit way too early. Maybe it's to make sure that everyone is sick of the carols by the time Christmas arrives. While literally thousands of holiday albums have already been recorded, there are still a few every year that are different and worth a listen.

THE SIMPLE TAKE

During the frosty weather of December, it's only natural that people want to hear seasonal tunes from their favorite artists, and *Wintersong* by Sarah McLachlan showcases her talents to her fans as well as to anyone interested in beautiful Christmas music.

Wintersong has the traditional Christmas songs that everyone loves and includes her latest single, "River," which some say is the defining song of the album. "River" uses the guitar and McLachlan's signature voice to help power and move the song. While the entire album is formed by the layers of harmonies and guitar, "River" helps bring the collection together, joining the newer songs with the older traditional ones.

In fact, the nice thing about McLachlan's newest album is the balance between the traditional Christmas and her own versions of the classics. And McLachlan also focuses more on the songs with the sad and nostalgic melodies that fit her voice.

The title track, the only original piece on this album, is as inviting as the classic holiday tunes. It provides the warmth of needed for a good Christmas song while at the same bringing something new to a seasonal album.

The whole album is a nice, simple take on the tradition Christmas album, helping rid the rigors of the season, while keeping McLachlan's style.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Artist: Sarah McLachlan
Album: Wintersong
Release Date: Oct. 17, 2006

James Taylor's re-release of 2004 Christmas album adds new songs, keeps old warm and mellow melodies

As a remake of a limited edition album by Hallmark from 2004, *James Taylor at Christmas* provides a unique take on the traditional Christmas playlist. The updated version also contains a few additional songs not included on the 2004 release.

James Taylor at Christmas is a long overdue album in his nearly five decade-long career as a musician.

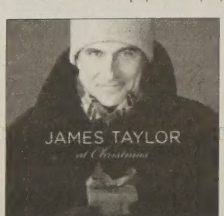


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Artist: James Taylor
Album: James Taylor at Christmas
Release Date: Oct. 10, 2006

But perhaps few are as suited as Taylor for the mellowness, warmth, and coziness that a good Christmas album requires.

It's difficult to make interesting Christmas music that stands out. But Taylor has the remarkable ability to create Christmas songs that aren't run-of-the-mill, making music that is unique compared to the other music played repeatedly on the radio during the holiday season. He is always able to take old songs and put a new twist on them.

The CD starts out with the playful and jazzy song, "Winter Wonderland." The song features Chris Botti, a well-known contemporary jazz performer playing the trumpet.

Taylor teams up on two other songs as well: Natalie Cole joins him for a laid-back duet with "Baby It's Cold Outside," and Taylor and Toots Theilemans come together on "The Christmas Song."

Throughout the entire album, Taylor broadcasts his smooth and gentle voice, especially in "Some Children See Him." Holiday songs need a voice like his, as smooth as hot chocolate, with the occasionally must-have addition of songs like "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" or "Feliz Navidad."

And this collection is a good mix of both peaceful songs and the more upbeat, pop songs.

Forget the 'Silent Night,' Twisted Sister's new album rocks Christmas with a radically different approach

No artist's career is complete without a holiday album, so Twisted Sister finally released *A Twisted Christmas*, complete with a heavy-metal version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

At first, it may seem like an extremely far-fetched concept, but in reality the album works remarkably well. The majority of the songs are left unchanged, except of course for the fact that the instruments used are a very noticeable variation on the norm.

The album does cause some skepticism at first, but on listening, Twisted Sister pulls together a good Christmas album, albeit not traditional (in any sense of the word).

The tempos and melodies of "A Twisted Christmas" are definitely unique, but they also enforce the idea that Twisted Sister used this album as a sort of tribute CD to their history.

The band makes a few songs uniquely their own, such as "O Come All Ye Faithful." Twisted Sister places, almost note by note, the entire song to the tune of their mega-hit, "We're Not Gonna Take It."

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Artist: Twisted Sister
Album: A Twisted Christmas
Release Date: Oct. 17, 2006

They also replace all of the "lords a-leaping," "swans a-swimming," and even the "partridge in a pear tree," in the band's version of the "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with the title of "Heavy Metal Christmas." Instead, the band received "pairs of platforms," "leather jackets," and "a tattoo of Ozzy," from their "true love."

The hard rock and Twisted Sister lovers out there will thoroughly enjoy "A Twisted Christmas."

And while those who are sticklers for classic and soothing Christmas carols may opt out of this new album, they're missing out on all the fun.

television&bookreviews

NUMB3RS

Airs: Fridays on CBS at 10:00 p.m. EST

With its second season well under way, "Numbers" is racking up good reviews from the critics for its innovative mathematical twist on the CSI premise. Brothers Don (played by Rob Morrow) and Charlie Epps (played by David Krumholtz) team up to use their talents to solve the mysteries using Don's FBI investigation skills and Charlie's brilliant mathematical knowledge. Although "Numbers" is yet another crime-solving mystery drama, it differs in its focus on character - including the bond between the brothers and their family - and a completely unique methodology employed to solve the cases.

The show explores the unpredictable ways of humans that can't always be explained by Charlie's mathematical equations, and the new and fresh twist on the common theme is spiced by a strong and shining supporting cast. Still, Morrow and Krumholtz's great performance as the main characters make this show one not to miss.

sudoku

9			3	1			4	8
	4	5						9
1			5		2		8	
	9			3			2	
	6		4		8			1
4						1	3	
6	1			8	5			7

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

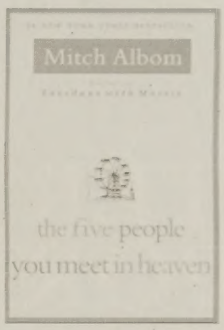
The Five People You Meet in Heaven

by Mitch Albom

Albom opens the novel with the death of a man named Eddie who works at the Ruby Point Amusement Park and dies while trying to save a young girl from a dangerous park ride. Like most people on Earth, Eddie believes that heaven is a peaceful resting place. But after his death Eddie finds out that the purpose of heaven is to explain the meaning of life on Earth.

According to the book, spanning under 200 pages, when someone goes to heaven, he meets five people from his time on Earth. Eddie first meets a man, named The Blue Man, who worked at the freak show on the pier when Eddie was a young boy. One day Eddie was playing baseball with his friends. When the ball rolled into the street, Eddie went to retrieve it and was almost hit by a car. The driver of the car was The Blue Man. Both Eddie and the The Blue Man were unharmed, but as the Blue Man continued driving, he was so unnerved by the incident that he was unable to pay attention to his driving and was later hit by a car. Eddie comes to the realization that everyone's lives are interconnected and that what one person does can create a chain of influence.

The next person Eddie meets is his general from the Vietnam war. Eddie finds out that the general risked his life in order to save Eddie and is responsible for the injuries Eddie had later in life.



The third person Eddie encounters is Ruby, the woman after whom the pier was made. Ruby and Eddie were both unhappy with the pier, and Eddie sees far too late that in his times of loneliness, he was never really alone after all.

Eddie also meets his wife, who explains to him that love does not die with a physical death. Last, Eddie meets a young girl whom he killed by accident in Vietnam. The young girl comes to tell Eddie that the girl whom he was trying to save from the amusement ride survived.

In an Amazon.com review, Patrick O'Kelley writes that "such a story can easily veer into the saccharine and preachy, and this one does in moments. But, for the most part, Albom's telling remains poignant and is occasionally profound. Even with its flaws [it] is a small, pure, and simple book that will find good company on a shelf next to *It's A Wonderful Life*."

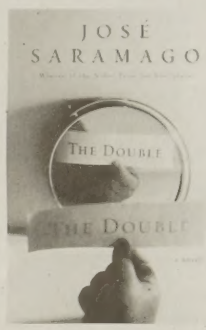
The Double

by Jose Saramago

Tertuliano Maximo Afonso is cursed with a terrible name and a dull and monotonous life, teaching history in an urban school somewhere in Europe. Divorced and seeing a woman named Maria da Paz, Afonso is quietly unhappy with his life. When his friend the mathematics teacher suggests that Afonso rent a certain film for light entertainment, he is unpleasantly surprised when his exact and identical copy is found as a minor character in the movie.

Unsettled, Afonso begins a detailed trace for the man, starting with watching a dozen movies to find his identical double in about half of them. Soon Maria da Paz is involved, questioning Afonso's actions yet sticking by him – even to the point of tragedy. As Afonso moves closer and closer to his double, an actor who is appears to be Afonso's lesser half, the two battle for their individual identities to the extremes, risking everything they have, oblivious to the consequences.

The plot moves forward almost as quickly as the narrative flows from page to page. Saramago is well known for his sentences that never seem to stop, running for half a page or more, a wandering prose that creates quite literally a page-turner. While the middle of the book is thick and the sidetracks the narrator goes down are often long (although almost always humorous), the ending is a walloping finale that is both as unexpected as it is shocking.



And unlike many of Saramago's other novels – which won him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1998 – that are insightful narratives into the nature of man, *The Double* differs in the underlying tones of humor and absolute horror created by the ending.

The ending is certainly fantastic from a literary point of view, but it strikes the reader more on reflection. Like suddenly looking into the mirror after a week of blindness, surprised by the image on the glass, the ending of *The Double* is surprising and questions what it is to be an individual and, perhaps more to the point, what it means to be a substitute. While delving into the book is daunting at first, the final result is well worth the effort.

Painful and poetic, *The Double* is a beautiful and moving read for anyone who has ever wondered what a unique identity truly means.

filmreview

by Chris Purdy

Leonardo DiCaprio and Djimon Hounsou in the action-packed *Blood Diamond* (2006), which opened Dec. 8 nationwide. All photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

Blood Diamond

Despite the heavily mixed reviews, I was blown away by this film. Perhaps it was because of the way it was advertised, but I simply was not expecting a film of this scope and caliber, and especially not from Hollywood, or about such a serious topic. *Blood Diamond* has its share of clichés and flaws, but it compensates for them with such emotion and cinematic perfection that it's hard to hold these minor problems against it as a whole. It has the storyline of a classic Hollywood adventure film, complete with riveting scenes of suspense and action, but it also manages to pull the themes and political ideas right in along the way, making for an exceptionally well-balanced "message" movie that never goes over the top.

Leonardo DiCaprio is outstanding as Danny Archer, a Rhodesian diamond smuggler who is looking for his ticket out of Africa. Like in *The Departed*, his role here is gritty, mature, and complex, and it truly shows just how talented an actor he is. His attempt at a South African accent is scarcely more than adequate (it's supposedly one of the hardest to learn) but surprisingly enough, it doesn't hamper his Oscar-worthy performance at all.

Equally if not more powerful is the fierce performance by Djimon Hounsou, who owns every scene he's in. Hounsou portrays Solomon Vandy, a native of Sierra Leone who is kidnapped and forced to work in the diamond fields when his town is assaulted by rebels. He discovers a very large, rare pink diamond while sifting through a riverbed and quickly finds a place to bury it, but government troops arrive, and Solomon is arrested along with the remaining rebels and workers.

While in prison, Archer, who is there for being caught trying to smuggle diamonds across the border, learns of the pink gem and realizes that it is his chance to get out this "God forsaken continent," so he promptly makes a connection with Solomon and promises to help him find his family in exchange for the location of the diamond. On the way, they join forces with American journalist Maddy Bowen, played well by Jennifer Connelly, who, along with Solomon, is one of the few characters in the film not driven entirely by personal gain or greed.

This movie shows everything that is dark and despicable in human beings, and the cruel lengths to which people will go simply for money. It also does so without hesitation; *Blood Diamond* is brutal and harrowing, and the exciting action is not something we're actually supposed to enjoy watching. Still, there is some solace in the end knowing that a little good can go a long way, and that illegal diamond trafficking has been significantly diminished over the past few years. I recommend this exhilarating yet important adventure film to everyone. *Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, and Jennifer Connelly.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★★★

The Queen

It's 1997, and a younger Tony Blair has just been elected as Prime Minister - something that seems to bother Queen Elizabeth II. It's not that he's done anything wrong; he was only elected hours ago, and it's up to the Queen to actually appoint him. It's just that she appears mildly confused about her actual role. She knows that she still has great power, authority, and responsibility (it is her government, after all). But what does she do when there is such a popular new Prime Minister? Will the monarchy last? Does it even have a purpose?

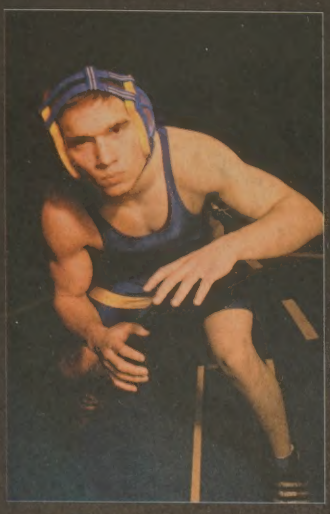
Through Helen Mirren's masterful performance, we can almost physically see these questions pass through her mind and become etched onto her face. Still, she manages to keep her regal, elegant calm. Really, these people don't even seem like actors. They are the royal family where Mirren is the queen and Sheen is Tony Blair.

It's rare that a piece of drama feels so realistic, so authentic, that it actually seems more like a behind-the-scenes exposé that one would be lucky to get his hands on. It's almost a lighthearted, simpler version of *The Godfather* in that it closely follows the secretive daily lives of very important and powerful people during a significant crisis: the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the subsequent private and public conflicts that arise.

The royal family travels to their mountain retreat and plans a private funeral while millions of grieving citizens pay their respects at Buckingham Palace and wish for a public service. They are angered by the family's apparent lack of remorse over the incident and are bewildered at the absence of the Queen, or of a flag flying at half-mast above the palace. There is even talk of abolishing the monarchy.

Tony Blair is on the phone with the stubborn ruler almost non-stop, desperately trying to convince her to come back to London, give a speech, and allow a public funeral for both the people's sake and her own. Stephen Frears' directing is respectable, but the outstanding, award-worthy performances by the actors are what really shine here. *The Queen* is a brilliant character study as well as a biopic that is both memorable and educational, but most of all enjoyable. *Starring Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, and James Cromwell.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★★★

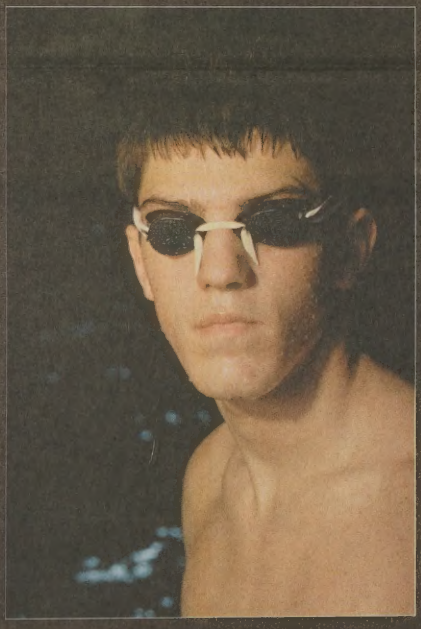


[ANDREW FAHLSING *wrestling*]

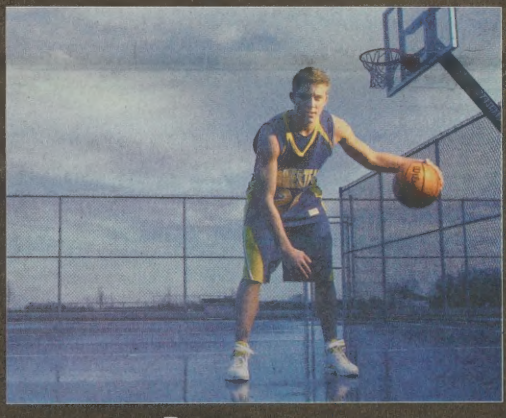
[JESSICA SKIBA *swimming*]

WINTER SPORTRAITS

a photo essay by zach hetrick and suzie reever

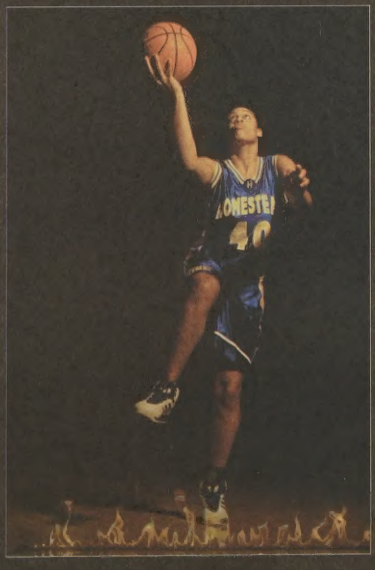


[ZACH JOHNSON *swimming*]



[KYLE LEIENDECKER *basketball*]

[CHRISSY CHENOWETH *gymnastics*]



[STEPHANIE MITCHELL *basketball*]

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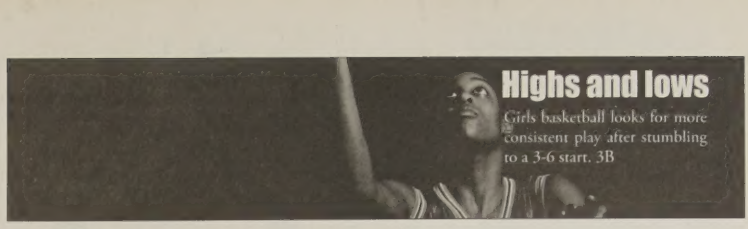
Sports

Friday, December 22, 2006



Highs and lows

Girls basketball looks for more consistent play after stumbling to a 3-6 start. 3B

JUDO

WITH ANDREW FAHLSING

Former jujitsu champ discusses success, proper technique

By Nick Arnold
Writer

Many high school athletes can only dream of ever competing on the national or even international level. However, this dream became reality for Andrew Fahlsing (11), when he became a World Jujitsu Champion in 2001.

"It was just awesome to win on such a big stage," Fahlsing said. "I had competed three or four times before and placed but never had won. It was really nice to have all that hard work pay off."

Fahlsing's interest in martial arts started when he took his first karate class at age eight.

"It seems like I've been doing it for such a long time," Fahlsing said. "I played other sports growing up like soccer and baseball, but they really didn't stick."

As he became more advanced in karate, Fahlsing began to learn various styles of the different types of martial arts. From there, he began to focus on jujitsu, training at Wallen Baptist Church.

Realizing he had talent, Fahlsing began traveling across the country to participate in various tournaments. He found success at almost every level, being crowned a multiple state champion. He even became a champion at the Junior Olympics in South Carolina.

Though jujitsu is not as common as other martial arts such as Taekwondo, the sport has a long and respected history. Originating in ancient Japan, the art is relatively "softer" than other martial arts.

Watching Fahlsing practice jujitsu gives one the sense of his talent. Yet, the sport isn't all about pure combat.

"Jujitsu requires relaxation," Fahlsing said. "You have to be able to make your opponent go where you want. You just can't force him physically."

Though Fahlsing does not have a favorite jujitsu technique he prefers in competition, he does admit he is more skilled with his hands than feet.

"Sometimes it can really be a workout," Fahlsing said.

Though it has been five years since Fahlsing's international victory, his skill in martial arts is still beneficial to his current sport of focus, wrestling. Weighing 145 pounds, Fahlsing is a difficult opponent in both martial arts and wrestling.

"There are lots of similarities between the two," Fahsing said. "Grappling in jujitsu is very similar to wrestling."

Fahlsing concedes there are some differences between the two, but for the most part feels they complement each other.

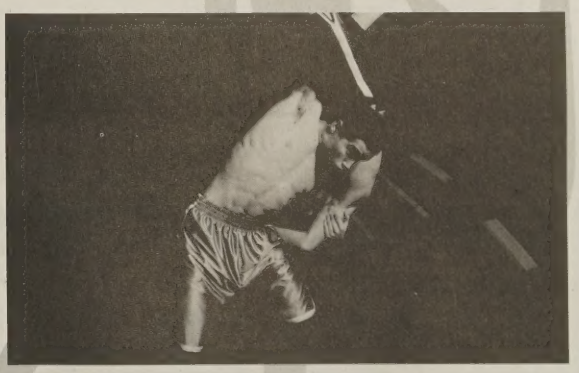
Wrestling coach Andy Pursley agrees. He sees Fahlsing's experience in martial arts as a definite advantage.

"One of the biggest things is balance," Pursley said. "Having balance is something every wrestler needs in order to be successful."

"Wrestling could almost be considered a form of martial arts," Pursley said. "Many types of martial arts have wrestling backgrounds."

Though Pursley knows what it takes to be a successful wrestler, he never participated in martial arts. He did find success on another level, however, being crowned state-champion in his weight class in 1999. For now, Fahlsing is focusing on the upcoming wrestling season. He hasn't participated in a jujitsu tournament since he started high school.

"I just haven't had much time between school and wrestling," Fahlsing said. "But it is something I still want to pursue. Once I get out of college, hopefully I'll be able to start it back up again."



JUDO: HOW TO

Judo is a martial arts form that is well-known for its spectacular throwing techniques as well as grappling.

The following throwing technique can be used for when an opponent walks up behind you:

1) Use your right hand to hold opponent's left arm and push it under his/her right armpit, creating a crossed arm motion (therein controlling the opponent's arms).

2) When you pick up the opponent in a throwing position, shift your right arm to twist inside and place your hands on his/her right hip.

3) Then throw.

Former Spartan discusses life in the major leagues

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Seven years ago, Rob Bowen graduated from Homestead as perhaps the best baseball player to ever go through the program, receiving all-state honors in 1998 and 1999 and was named the USA Today and Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year in 1999. Bypassing college, the switch-hitting catcher was chosen 56th overall by the Minnesota Twins. His first opportunity to play consistently came last year, when he was dealt to the San Diego Padres.

Up until this season, Bowen had just 37 plate appearances since his Major League debut in 2003. But last year, Bowen broke out with 94 plate appearances in 94 games, hitting .245 with 3 home runs and 13 RBIs. His first home run with the Padres was a walk-off solo shot against the Cubs on May 6. The departure of future Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza will give Bowen a chance to compete for the starting job next season.

Bowen returns to Fort Wayne every year, volunteering his time to host a winter baseball camp for local kids ages 8-19 years old. This year, the camp was held December 16 and 17, at the former Tecumwah Sports Facility now called the Ash Centre. In his first interview with *The Spartana* since he was drafted, Bowen talks about life in the Major Leagues and why he chooses to return to his roots each winter.

***The Spartana*: Talk a little about the Major Leagues. What's the best part?**

Bowen: The best part of it is living a childhood dream growing up. After all the work I've put into it, all the grueling hours, having to take a bus everywhere, eating at McDonald's every night, this is why I did it. It paid off. This is what I want to do and I love it...I haven't had a lot of chances to get a lot of good breaks and everything, so I feel I just have to keep working hard.

***The Spartana*: Take me through the walk-off against the Cubs. What went through your mind when the ball left the bat?**

Bowen: I just wanted to get a base hit any way I could. I get up there, and I see the pitch up in the zone...and I hit it and I thought, "Oh my gosh, I hit that pretty good." Playing at Petco [Park], that's the hardest place to hit a home run...I was getting ready to around first, and I saw it going over...it was pretty special.

***The Spartana*: What does Piazza's departure do ro your status on the depth chart?**

Bowen: Personally for me it's good. I'm going to get more playing time. But Mike Piazza is a Hall-of-Famer, and we're going to miss his bat... not a lot of people give him credit for the stuff he does. This is Josh [Barfield] and my chance to step up and fill in a pretty big hole.

***The Spartana*: What draws you back to Fort Wayne every winter?**

Bowen: Doing this and helping kids. I had a lot of people I looked up to when I went to camps. I went to high school here and I grew up here for ten years, so I have a little bit more of an impact on kids here because some of them may know what I've done here...So if I can come here and make a positive influence on a kid, then that's great.

***The Spartana*: You spoke with some Homestead players last week. What did you tell them?**

Bowen: I spoke with the baseball team and the basketball team. You can talk all day about baseball...but my biggest thing is baseball is only one part of your life. The other parts are your work ethic, your attitude, and how you prepare.

***The Spartana*: To what extent do you contribute your career at Homestead to your success in the Majors?**

Bowen: I first started switch-hitting my freshman year in high school. I give Coach Potter a lot of credit for letting my do that because I wasn't very good sophomore year, but junior and senior year it worked out pretty well...he was in it for the players, and that really shows what he's all about.

***The Spartana*: Do you regret not going to college?**

Bowen: People will say yes and no. I don't regret it at all right now because this is what I want to do. I have a clause in my contract that says if I get hurt and I can't play baseball, I have my college paid for ahead of time. I had a very limited window, and I wanted to maximize my opportunities.

***The Spartana*: When athletes do volunteer work like this, it seems like it is much for their benefit as the kids'. But it seems that you do it solely for the kids and you can do without the attention. Why?**

Bowen: I don't like a whole lot of attention. I shy away from it...one thing I like to teach is image. I am representing the San Diego Padres wherever I go no matter what. If I'm out making bad decisions, getting into trouble, then I'm going to be out of a job. My talent level is not that high as a Terrell Owens, where he's got such a premier talent, but the amazing thing is not a lot of people want him. What you do off the field reflects on your parents, your team, and the high school. Nobody wants bad press. Nobody will take those kind of players.

***The Spartana*: In the off-season, besides this, what else do you do?**

Bowen: It's fun...I have a ranch in Georgia. I just get away from the game and relax a little bit. Then when the end of December into January rolls around, I turn my focus back to baseball. I'll head back to San Diego, get ready for the season, and go from there.

{BALANCING Act}

Gymnastics coach battles breast cancer while coaching team

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

While the majority of the winter sports teams have a healthy coach who is always reliable, the gymnastics team has found themselves in a much different situation. Gymnastics coach Erica Macevoy was diagnosed with breast cancer at the end of June this year.

Macevoy has been the Homestead gymnastics coach since 1997. She also has coached at More Than Gymnastics and was a member of the Homestead gymnastics team while in high school. The Fort Wayne-born coach believes she is very lucky.

"My diagnosis is actually pretty good. When I go to chemo I see people who have much worse cancer than I do. I am just happy that my breast cancer isn't too extreme," Macevoy said.

Macevoy is very comfortable and open about sharing her breast cancer experience. She informed her team of her diagnosis over the summer.

The team was having a cookout at Kelsey Amstutz's house when Macevoy told everyone. All of the girls and their families were there, so Macevoy thought it was a good time to tell everyone.

"I don't really know how they reacted. They didn't seem surprised, but I could tell they were concerned. They didn't really ask many questions so I don't really know what they thought," Macevoy said.

The team and their families have been very supportive of the coach. They offer different things when they are needed. Macevoy is thankful that they are so caring and understanding, but she is trying to get through most of this on her own.

"I want the girls to learn, and myself, that whatever tragedy takes place, you can get through it," Macevoy said.

Due to her cancer, the team has had to make a few subtle changes. Macevoy is not allowed to spot the girls, but sometimes she still tries. She spots them on the easier stunts but when the stunts get harder the girls believe they might hurt her or that she won't be able to get out of the way quick enough.

"It's been kind of hard because she can't really spot us. I feel bad because some days she is so weak and has to have the upperclassmen show us what she means because she can't do it herself. Other than that, practices really aren't much different. We have another coach, Christy, so she is also there to help us out if it is needed," Chloe Smith (9) said.

Ashley Hockney (11) plans on helping out her coach. Hockney would like to start raising money for breast cancer to not only help her coach but other ladies who have been diagnosed.

Though the girls' coach is going through a lot in her life now, the team still practices frequently and are working so they can have a successful season.

The team's first meet is at home on January 11 against Snider. The team is hoping to do well this season and work through all of the struggles.

Even though Macevoy is going through a troubling time, she is staying positive.

"I'm not afraid of cancer. The only thing that frightens me is not knowing what is going to happen in the future. From all of this, I have learned to not get upset about the little things in life," Macevoy said.

Injuries can't stop boys swimming

Team still takes first at Homestead Invite, beating out top three teams in state for title

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

After losing several influential seniors from last year's team, the boys swim team has already dealt with the loss of some swimmers this season. However, even with the problems, the team is the most dominant team in the area and one of the top-ranked teams in the state.

Zach Johnson (11), a promising young swimmer on last year's team, went down with a knee injury just prior to the season. During a pick-up basketball game he made a turn on his knee that caused him to chip a bone in his kneecap. He consequently had surgery on his knee to help it recover. He attends physical therapy every day after school and is hoping to be back with the team in February, just in time for the post season.

Even with Johnson's injury, the team has gotten off to a strong start. The team's first major event was the inaugural Hall of Fame Invitational at Brownsburg. This was made to showcase some of the best teams in the state.

The Spartans beat out number four-ranked Chesterton, Noblesville, and Brownsburg, among others, for first place. Anderson Whipp (10), Ryan Dafforn (12), Kurt Hansbarger (12), and the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Adam Lill (12), Tom Evans (12), Kyle Frebel (11), and Whipp led the way for the Spartans by winning their events. While the team only took first in four out of 15 events, they showed a lot of team depth that propelled them to first place.

"It was a nice checkpoint that early in the season," Dafforn said. "We were able to see where we stood while participating in different events."

Next, the Spartans took on the Snider Panthers. Snider is one of the only teams in the area that had a hope of challenging the Spartans this year.

> *"We showed that we could compete and beat the top teams in state."*
>
> **Ryan Dafforn (12)**
> Varsity swimmer

The thought of an upset was quickly put to rest by the Spartans. They easily defeated Snider and in the process may have solidified themselves as the best area team.

On December 9, the team hosted the Homestead Invitational. Hamilton Southeastern, number one in the state, Chesterton, number two, and North Central, number three, were all included in the field. However, it was the fourth-ranked Spartans that pulled out the upset by beating the field.

Once again the team displayed their depth that enabled to get them to first place.

They beat Hamilton Southeastern by a narrow 14.5 points. Winning just one event, and second in one other event, the team finished in the top five in nine other events. This overall balance was enough to capture the team title. Whipp won the 50-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle relay team got second.

"It was a good measuring stick for our team," Dafforn said. "We showed that we could compete and beat the top teams in state. We really showed off our depth that helped our team out a lot. It was also good getting some experience against the other teams that we will most likely be seeing and competing against at state."

While the team has gotten off to a hot start, they know that the only thing that really matters is how they do at the end of the season at the state meet.

All the tough meets and invitationals during the season are only preparing them for an even bigger test to end their year.

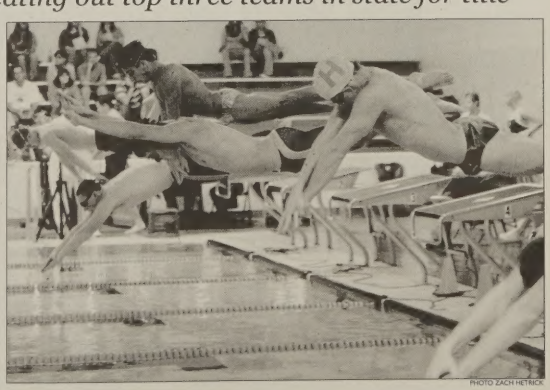
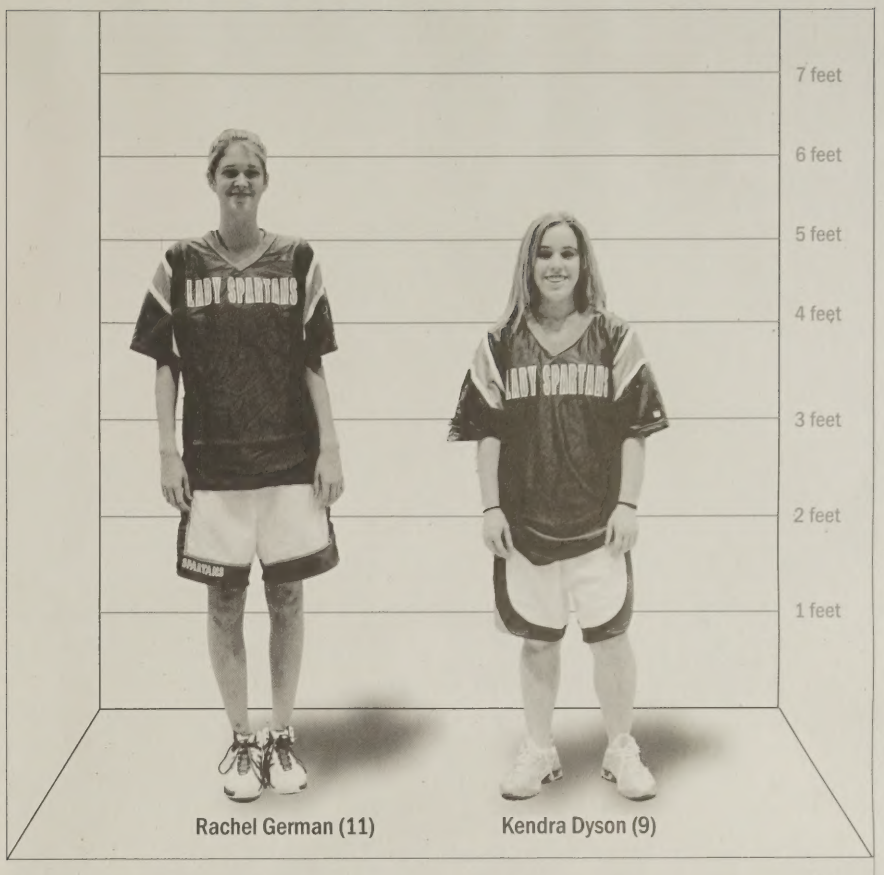


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Boys swimmers begin a race at the Homestead Invite. The Spartans defeated the top three teams in the state to win.



5'2" freshman sees playing time, but team still struggles early

THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS

By Kara Busse
Writer

As one of the shortest and youngest girls varsity basketball players in Spartan history, Kendra Dyson (9) has definitely brought more than just skill to the team. For the 5'2" freshman, making the varsity team was very much a surprise.

"When I found out I made varsity I took it very much like a privilege," Kendra Dyson (9) said.

Not only did the team welcome her as a friend but also as a talented player.

"They took me in and were very welcoming and friendly," Dyson said.

Aside from being a freshman and significantly shorter than the tallest player on the team (who is nearly a foot taller than Dyson), she brings skill and experience to the Lady Spartans.

"I've been playing basketball since I was in third grade," Dyson said.

The freshman has been playing the point guard position for seven years and impressed coaches in tryouts with her ball-handling technique and unselfish style of play.

Although being short in the world in basketball isn't exactly seen as positive, Dyson puts things in perspective for herself and others.

"[My height] puts me somewhat at a disadvantage, but the speed from being short is good. I see it as going both ways," Dyson said.

Dyson and the Lady Spartans have struggled from the outset of this season, compiling a 3-6 record so far. On Saturday, December 2, the girls could not overcome Norwell. They had several chances to come back against the Lady Knights, but eventually fell 55-51.

After defeating Northside, the girls looked to carry that success over against Concordia. The team knew it would be one of their most difficult tests going in and were unable to stop the Cadets, as they fell by ten, 53-43.

The team was able to end their short losing streak against New Haven on Friday, December 8. The girls won by five, 58-53.

"I think that against New Haven we started off really well and because of that we won the game," Caroline Rondot (11) said.

The elation was short lived however with games on Tuesday, December 12, and Saturday, December 16, against the Southside Archers and the Carroll Chargers. Both games ended with double-digit defeats for the Lady Spartans. The Archers beat the girls 69-59 in an obviously high scoring game. The Chargers overcame the girls in the end 49-39.

The girls have a noticeably difficult schedule but believe they are capable of doing better and coming out on top more often.

"We definitely have a very tough schedule. All the teams we play are very good basketball teams, but so are we so it's okay. So far this season we haven't really played to our full potential. We are a good team and we just have to show that in games." Rondot said.

In the majority of the girls' games this season, they have started off too slow, but they have shown they can play consistent offense and defense in their wins this season. Rondot acknowledges there is work to do.

"At practice we are constantly working towards becoming the best team that we can be and we definitely are getting closer every game," Rondot said.

Peter Saya (11) finds home with new team

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Peter Saya (11) has played hockey for seven years. In those seven years he has driven all over Indiana and the Midwest, put in countless hours of practice, and played countless minutes, guarding his goal with utmost care. He has played at the highest levels available to a Ft. Wayne area player, having been a member of U18 prepost leagues and in all-star type Midget AA Major league in which he traveled almost every weekend to hockey games and tournaments. Then, Saya naturally transitioned to the high school level, playing on Homestead's club team last year.

However, at the end of last year Saya decided to leave Homestead Hockey due to disagreements with coaches and the organization as a whole. Because hockey is a club sport, Saya was able to leave Homestead to play for New Haven High School this season. New Haven is, according to record, the worst high school team in the city at 0-12. So far this season, New Haven has been outscored 77-11, including a double-digit loss to Carroll and a seven-goal defeat to Homestead. Last year New Haven struggled as well, going 1-17. Despite his team's difficulties, Saya has stuck with his new squad simply for a chance to play and enjoy the game.

"If you understand the game, there is a much deeper bond between teammates and everyone who loves the game."

Peter Saya (11)
Former Spartan hockey player

"Overall, there were coaches last year that I didn't get along with," Saya said. "Even though there are new coaches now, I just didn't like the organization in general. Plus, moving gave me a chance to play for one of my old coaches."

New Haven's porous defense and large goal discrepancy would seem to indicate that their goalie has a difficult job. But in spite of his frustration, Saya still puts on his pads for every game, trying to block every shots that come his way.

"It can get hard not to win," Saya said. "But it's still fun, and I get a lot of playing time."

Despite his departure, Saya still maintains friendships with some team members. After playing high school hockey last year, Saya developed close ties with some of his teammates, making his decision to leave that much harder.

"There are definitely guys on the Homestead team that I miss playing with," Saya said. "I was really good friends with some of them, and that made it harder to leave."

Saya did not leave a gaping hole in Homesteads lineup when he switched teams. Homestead does have two other goalies that have played for the Spartans this season.

New Haven is now playing the remainder of its regular season schedule, moving closer to the City Tournament later this season. Though they still have yet to win a game this season, Saya still says he enjoys the game. His love for the game of hockey is not tied to success on the ice. As he puts it: "If you understand the game, there is a much deeper bond between teammates and everyone who loves the game."

Two wrestlers remain undefeated

Wight (11) and Fahlsing (11) lead wrestling team to 10-2 record with three meets over break

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The varsity wrestling team has improved their record to 10-2, one of the major factors being their championship at the Wawasee Invitational, held December 16. There are still two members of the team, Justin Wight (11) and Andrew Fahlsing (11), who are undefeated, having beaten every wrestler in their weight class.

"We got first [at the Wawasee Invitational]. We beat five other teams and had seven individual champions," Shane Nelson (12) said.

The team won the Wawasee invitational after beating Wawasee, Rochester, Bishop Luers, Plymouth, and Elmhurst. The Spartans first beat Rochester 72-11, with every weight class coming out of the match victorious except two. The Spartans' winning streak continued with a 33-19 win over Plymouth and 43-28 victory over Bishop Luers.

"I think we wrestled really well. We have been doing really well, but we could have done better last Saturday at our home invitation where we lost to Carroll and New Haven," Ben Hazen (9) said.

The team then had a win over Elmhurst, 78-5. Seven wrestlers became individual champions, which added to the teams 5-0 victory at the invitational.

These wrestlers were Tucker Smith (9), Justin Wight (11), Shane Ruckel (11), Kyle Carlson (12), Andrew Fahlsing (11), Pat Nagel (12), and Will Bostain (12). Each of these wrestlers beat all five opponents that they faced.

"We have a couple of setbacks with Grant Laird (12) and Wesley Quake (12) being injured. Phil Reiman (11) was also for a while," Carlson said.

Even with the injuries to Wesley and Grant, who would be starting for varsity, the team has come up with several key wins. One of these victories was against a state-ranked Columbia City team, which the wrestling team considering a major victory.

"At our home match, a four way duo, we lost to Carroll and New Hazen, but we beat Columbia City, which was really good since they were ranked fifth in state at the time," Hazen said.

The undefeated Fahlsing has a good feeling about how he is performing right now, noting that he has some stiff competition to prepare for ahead.

"I feel pretty good. Last year I had 27 win and 11 losses. Right now I am 12-0. This is the best I have done in all my years; I hope to keep doing well, but I have a couple of tough matches ahead," Fahlsing said.

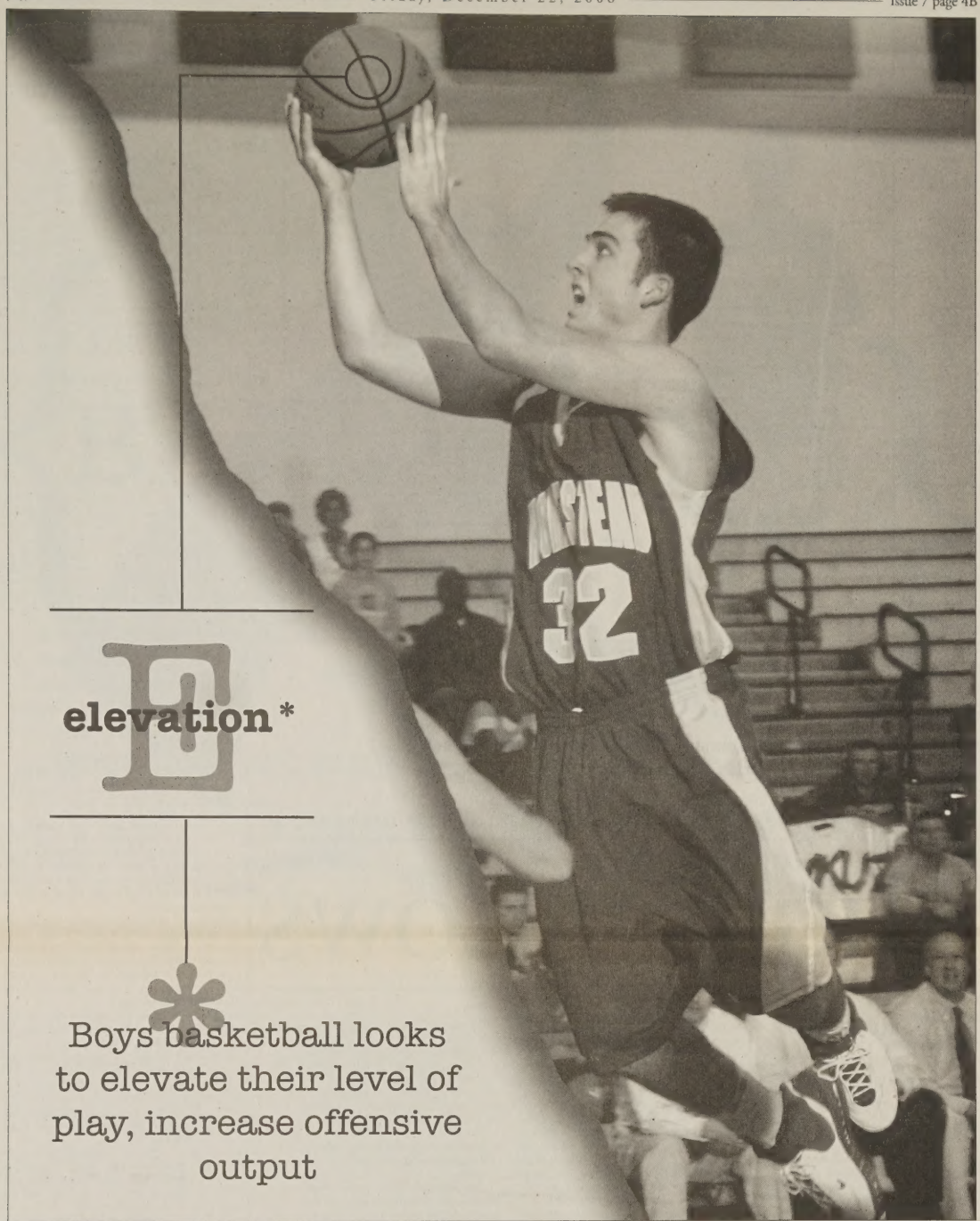
One of the main reasons this year's wrestling team has improved is the consistent performances of its upperclassmen. Last year there were only two seniors who were on varsity, and this year there are five. There are a total of nine upperclassmen that have seen time on varsity this year.

"We have definitely been better this year than the last couple of years, and that's because we have a lot more experienced wrestlers. We have a lot more upperclassmen who are more experienced than the freshmen and sophomores." Andrew Fahlsing said.

Over winter break, the Wrestling team will play at the Greenwood Invitational, home against sixth-ranked Bellmont, and at New Haven.

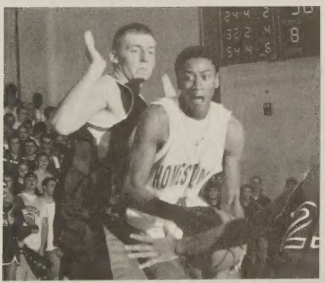
PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

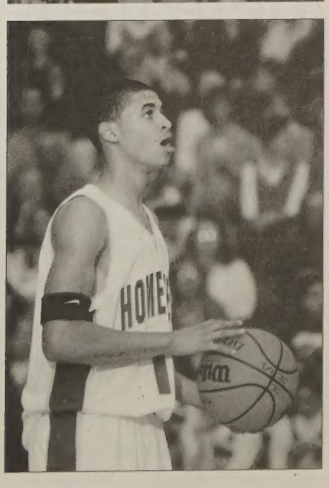
Kyle Carlson (12) pins his opponent in a recent meet.

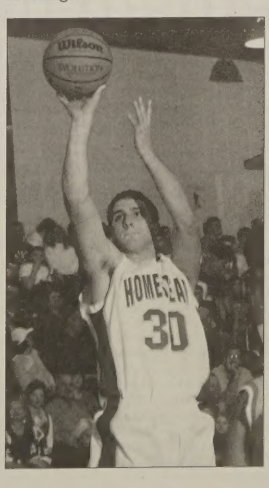


elevation*

Boys basketball looks to elevate their level of play, increase offensive output







Top: Center Bob Rodenbeck (12) jumps to make a basket in the game at North Manchester. **Left**: Desmond Lewis (12) fights to keep possession of the ball with two defenders from Carroll. **Corner**: During the Wayne game, Tracy Hathaway (11) prepares to make a free throw. **Below**: With all eyes on him, Jordan Wise (12) shoots a jumper during the game against South Side. The Spartans play at home tonight against Huntington North.

By Chris Ray
Writer

An underdog in sports is known as the team who is at a disadvantage and is expected to lose. The varsity boys basketball team has been recognized as the underdog by many local newspapers, picking them to place seventh out of eighth in the Northeast Hoosier Conference, after placing second last year.

The team has a totally revamped look compared to last year's team. After losing seven seniors, including all five starters, the Spartans have what people consider an inexperienced team. However, this new-look Spartan team also has seven seniors and six very talented juniors.

The team is led by seniors Bob Rodenbeck (12), Jordan Wise (12), Desmond Lewis (12), and Kyle Leiendecker (12), who all got some playing time on the varsity team last year.

"At the beginning of the season, our team set goals that we wanted to achieve. We wanted to win conference, and then win sectionals," Rodenbeck, a team captain, said.

The first game of the season came on Friday, December 1, against the Wayne Generals. The underdog Spartans not only shocked Wayne, but also shocked many critics, by beating the Generals 51-46. Leiendecker led the team with 21 points.

Leiendecker, who is mostly known for his skills as a baseball pitcher, showed what he and the Spartans can do on the court.

"Last year, I did not have a major role on the team. I was more of a role player. However, this year, I'm one of the leaders of the team, and I'm relied on to score," Leiendecker said.

The Spartans' next game came against a very tough Southside, in which they lost by a score of 70-47. Leiendecker had 11 points, but the leading scorer was Jacob Weide (11), who came off the bench to add 15 points.

Weide, who started on the J.V. team last year, is one of the many big men on the varsity team. The 6'6" Weide has used his vertical leap to score easy baskets around the rim, and has occasionally stepped out to make some three-point shots.

On Saturday, December 9, the team faced North Manchester. The Spartans defeated the Squires convincingly by a score of 72-37. All but one player for the Spartans scored, as Jacob Weide once again led the team with 13 points off the bench. Leiendecker had 12 points, as the Spartans improved their record to 2-1.

Conference play started on Friday, December 15, with a big game against crosstown rival Carroll. The game was hard-fought and very close from the opening tip to the final buzzer. Both teams played good team defense, but the Carroll Chargers came out on top, 37-32. Leiendecker had 15 points for the Spartans.

The game displayed some strengths and weaknesses for the varsity team.

"We are definitely a very good defensive team," Rodenbeck said. "However, our offense has really struggled in our first few games."

The team has held opponents to just 46.3 points per game, leaving them as one of the better defenses in the city. On offense, they average 50.5 points per game. The Spartans just can't seem to score when they have to. Late in the Carroll game, with the score close, the Spartans could not get any offense going, which led to the tough loss.

"We can be a very good team. Our defense is there, but we just need our offense to come along, and we will be right up there with the better teams in the city," Rodenbeck said.

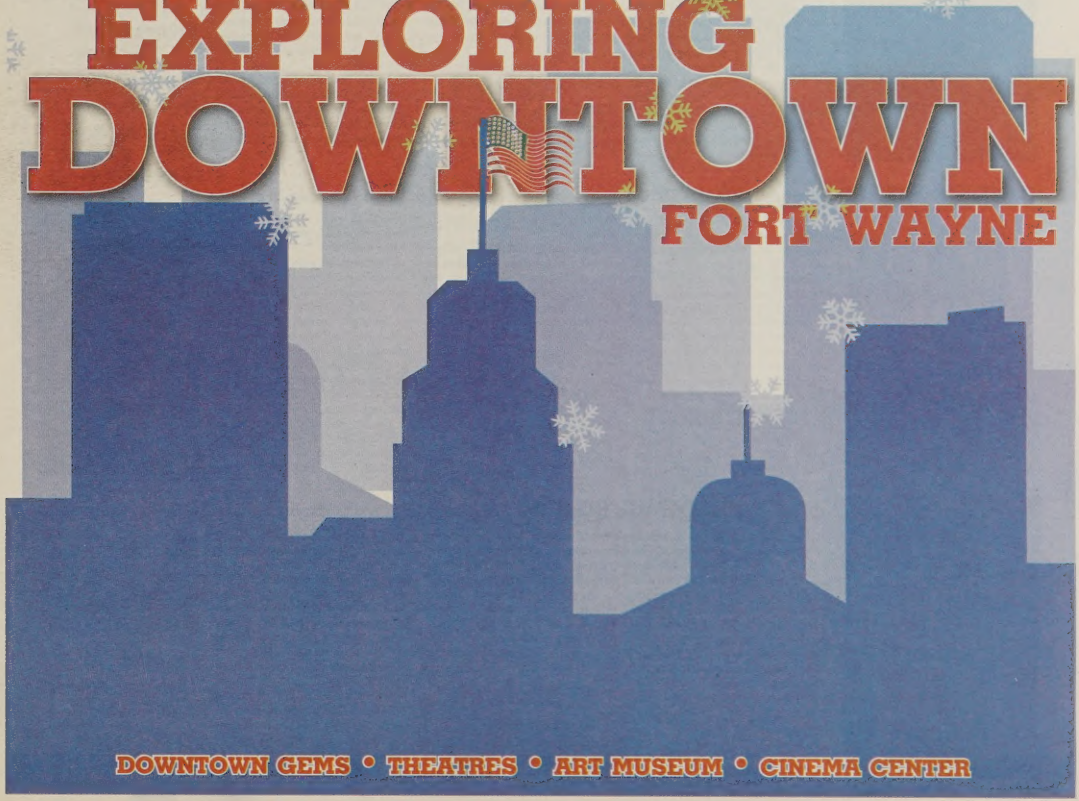
Four games into the season, the Spartans have surprised many critics with impressive wins over Wayne and North Manchester. "We are a very good team if we play hard on both ends of the floor," Leiendecker said.

Tonight, they face a highly-touted Huntington North team at Homestead. Once again, they are considered the underdogs. However, the Spartans are looking to surprise the Vikings with a tough defense and an in-your-face playing style.

SPECIAL INSERT SECTION

the Spartana

EXPLORING DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE



DOWNTOWN GEMS • THEATRES • ART MUSEUM • CINEMA CENTER

DOWNTOWN GEMS

Fort Wayne has changed, but these treasures are tasty reminders of the past

CONEY ISLAND: Grab a stool, but mind the customers entering from the kitchen door

Coney Island's friendly atmosphere and moderately priced, tasty grub are a staple of downtown Fort Wayne. Since its humble beginning in 1914, Coney Island has gained a reputation for the finest coney dogs around. It's also built a reputation of gooey, cholesterol-pounding food that has been highlighted in even the national magazines. The establishment believes in booths and bar stools, walking in through the back door and tramping through the kitchen, and serving speedy and flavorful American hot dogs.

True to their motto ("Our buns are steamed"), Coney Island grills their dogs, serves them in a steamed bun, and adorns them with grilled onions, mustard, and chili. The perfect hot dogs can be complimented by a coke in the bottle and a slice of cake or a bag of chips for the ever elusive meal trifecta.

Coney Island does the downtown diner cliché justice. Despite the absence of a bustling urban setting, the Island conveys an inner city honesty that is welcoming to people seeking good food, no questions asked. The comforting atmosphere created by the simple menu, quotations hanging on the wall, and newspaper clippings takes customer's back to the past. Nothing brings a person back to their youth like the sizzle of the grill, the recognizable ketchup-mustard-grease-fresh air scent, and the dizzy feeling one gets from spinning for too long atop the stool.

Natives and visitors agree that the wiener wonder is a refreshing glimpse of the past and how some believe restaurants should be: no nonsense, frivolous decorations or inflated prices.

VITAL INFO

131 W. Main St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 424-2997

FAST FACTS

Founded: 1914
Hot dog: $0.99
Burger: $1.85
Pie: $1.75
Soft drink: $0.90

CINDY'S DINER: Straight from the 1950's, serving the whole world, fifteen people at a time

FAST FACTS

Founded: 1945
Average Meal: $2.25
Mon-Thu 7am-4pm
Fri 7am-8pm
Sat 10am-4pm

Jukeboxes, talkative staff, and food cooked to order creates a genuine atmosphere of a traditional diner right out of the age where dancing was big, people swapped stories over coffee, and food was greasy and prompt. Cindy's eatery serves piping hot meals to the breakfast and lunch crowds that occupy the swivel chairs every day.

The good natured wait-staff pivots, grabs, and serves your order in less time than it takes a more modern restaurant to begin making your food. The close quarters (not so much cramped, just cozy) allow for efficient movements and personalized conversation: those around you, including your waitress, can hear what you say and often feel free to jump into the discussion.

The building is one of two authentic diners in town and has undergone five restorations, name changes, and owners once since its debut in 1954.

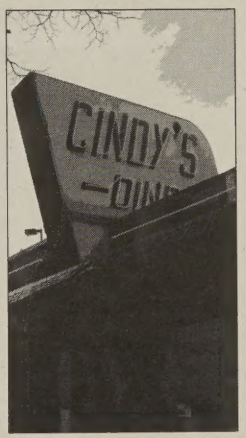
The current owners, John and Cindy Scheele, bought the diner in 1990, and moved it to its friendly corner location. Renamed "Cindy's Diner", it opened on Oct. 1, 1990, and has been serving their specialty American dishes since.

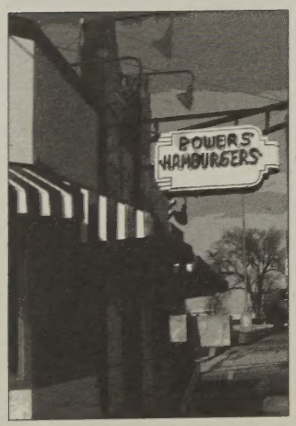
The breakfast menu includes traditional eggs, meats, and side dishes that are fast, hot, and easy on the wallet. Cindy's specialty entrée, known as "garbage", consists of eggs, ham or sausage, hash browns, cheese, and onions, and is rumored to taste better than it looks. Some of the popular midday meal options include cheeseburgers, sandwiches, fries, malts, onion rings, pies, and chili.

For an authentic 1950's experience, step into Cindy's for a trip back to how food and service used to be done.

VITAL INFO

830 S. Harrison St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 422-1957





POWER'S HAMBURGERS: A classic diner in Ft. Wayne, extra onions on the side

Power's is the Fort Wayne version of the classical diner. It has all the right elements of an urban niche, but for suburban dwellers it may not be all they are accustomed to. The appearance, at least, is dead on—a tin can shoved in the middle of a downtown parking lot. The worn down metal of the door swings with a notch and the backs of other downtowners instantly greet you. It seems like a scene from a New York movie when the star stops in late at night for a burger after a hard day's work.

The only part missing is the warm welcome. Diners are reclusive, and the 'waiter' (who is expected to be Cheer's classical Sam) avoids conversations. The food itself is quickly prepared on a hot grill and the mini burgers are grilled in a tiny corner.

The place could be named Power's because of the potency of the onions slabbed across mini burgers, guaranteed to scent hands for days. If you're not a fan, definitely ask for plain cheeseburgers. The best part about the meal: it's cheap. One burger is just 75 cents only, and they can be quickly bagged to take home, or you can sit on the cracked stools imaging you're Dick Tracy. Powers is the perfect place to pick up food on your way home from work, a place to escape the daily grind, unless the daily grind—as the waiter will remind you—is coming to Power's.

It's the tin can to stop by to grab grub that beats the every day Big Mac, but certainly not a place you drive out to dine. Then again, Power's regulars probably aren't looking for out-of-towners anyway.

VITAL INFO

1402 S. Harrison St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 422-6620

FAST FACTS

Founded: 1935 in Michigan, opened chains in Indiana
Open 24 hours
Burger: $0.75

DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY

Celebrating the winter season in style

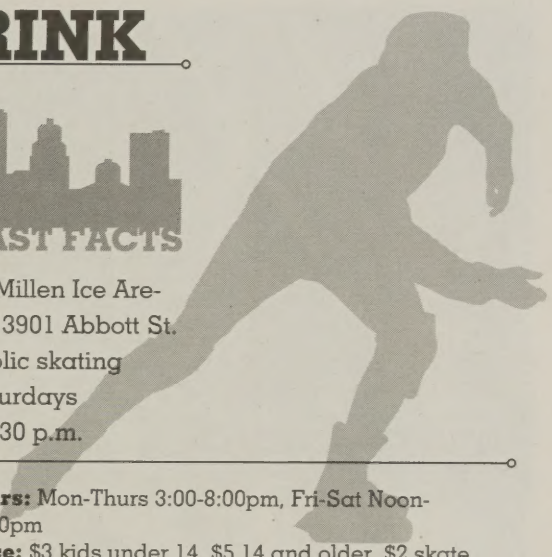
HEADWATERS PARK ICE RINK

The city's newest ice rink offers cheap rentals, a family-friendly atmosphere and covered skating

Headwater's ice rink, opened in 2004, is an impressive facility located off Clinton St. The rink is a part of the downtown improvement district, and

"A quiet recreational spot for festivals, concerts, charitable and other special events"

sports a covered ice rink, skate rentals, and is open through March. The rink is usually uncrowded and is a perfect location for a date or day with family.



FAST FACTS

McMillen Ice Arena: 3901 Abbott St.
Public skating
Saturdays
5-6:30 p.m.

Hours: Mon-Thurs 3:00-8:00pm, Fri-Sat Noon-10:00pm
Price: $3 kids under 14, $5 14 and older, $2 skate rental, Children 13 and under skate free Fridays
Location: 705 E. State Blvd Fort Wayne, IN 46805

FANTASY OF LIGHTS

Take a drive through Franke park and gaze at 75 light displays from the comfort of your car

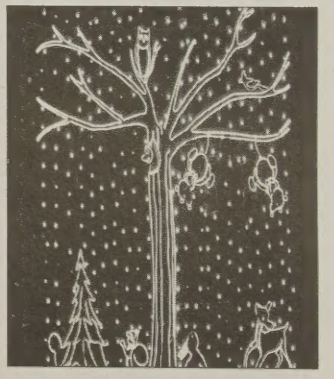
A Fort Wayne tradition, "Fantasy of Lights" is a trip through an illuminated Franke park—more than 75 light displays are spread through 11/2 mile

"enjoy the casual drive...see everything from a nativity scene to an animated rocking horse..."

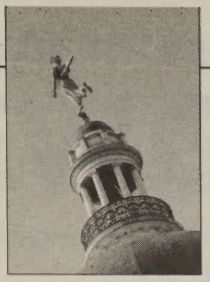
drive. Families are invited to drive through the park, taking in everything from a nativity scene to an animated rocking horse. Proceeds support a local Fort Wayne social services organization, AWS—Anthony Wayne Services.

FAST FACTS

"Proceeds...benefit AWS programs and therapies for those with disabilities."



Location: Franke Park 3411 Sherman Blvd.
When: Nov 22-Dec 31, Sun-Thurs 6:00-9:00pm, Fri-Sat: 6:00-10:00pm
Cost: $5 for a car, carriage ride for $30
Contact: 260-744-6145



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When you meet someone for the first time five, or ten, or forty years from now, where will you say you grew up? For the vast majority of us, we'll say "Fort Wayne" not "Aboite" or "southwest Allen county." But the fact is for most students, and for many of the people who live in the suburbs around Fort Wayne, the city is a place we rarely venture to. Our lack of interest, however, is not a condemnation of Fort Wayne...maybe much there is in ou

Fort Wayne is the the "summit city," a es." It stands alone dium, modern, eco where parents have nesses have set up s nals, and now to b the cities of the mid

This special is d

LORING DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE

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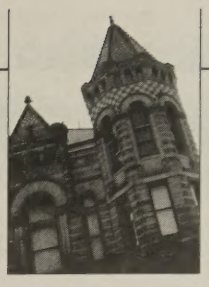
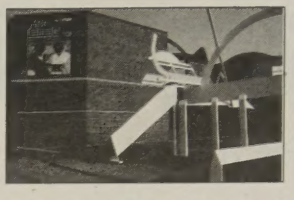
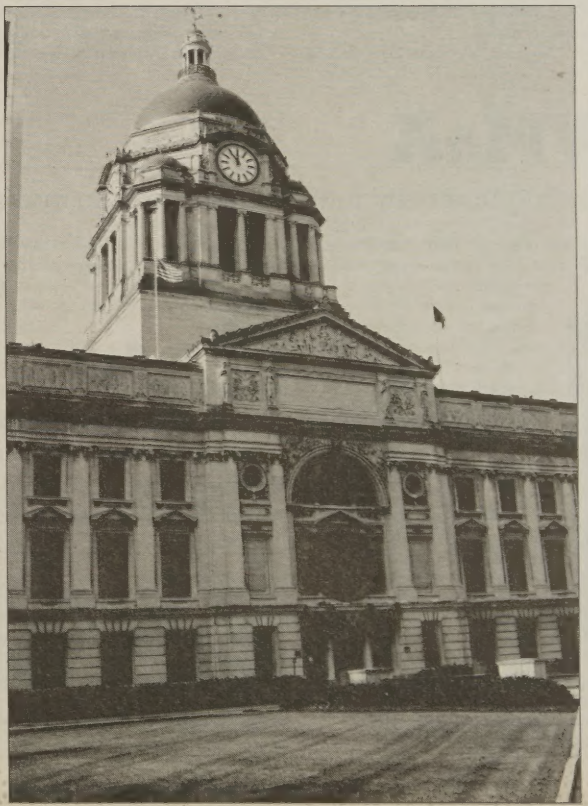
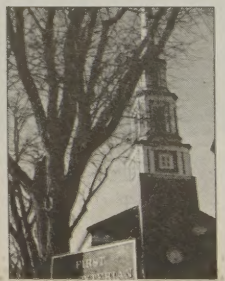
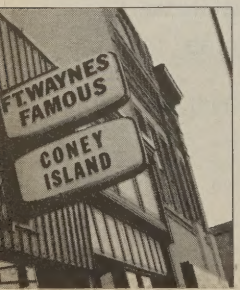




be we've just forgot how
ur own town.
he "city that saved itself,"
and the "city of church-
in the midwest as a me-
conomically stable place,
raised families and busi-
shop, first along the ca-
be strategically between
idwest.
dedicated to the places
that many of us suburbanites seem to have lost in the hurry and bustle of events west of I-69. Coney Island, Power's, Cindy's, the Cinema Center, the Civic: all of these places make Fort Wayne an exciting, interesting place, even if many seem to have forgotten it. But there is so much more than what is lightly touched-on in these eight pages that makes our city unique and worth visiting. The only way you'll really know this city, though, is to visit. It's not that far.







DOWNTOWN ARTS

Performance art for all ages: get closer to the essence of expression

THE FW BALLET

Teacher and student express themselves; company excites audiences without a single word

With just the right combination of romance, drama, excitement, and movement, the Fort Wayne Ballet has told hundreds of brilliant stories without ever saying a single word. Although their lips are sealed, the performers electrify the senses of audience through an often overlooked form of entertainment, one that started hundreds of years ago and is still inspiring today.

With the common misconception that ballet is overly-feminine and boring, the Fort Wayne Ballet reminds students that ballet is "not just about men in white tights."

Need more proof? Just ask social studies teacher, Jim Schmidt, who has been involved in the ballet since the 1987 production of The Nutcracker. Schmidt explained that although ballet is feminine, it requires extensive athletic training.

"The guys who dance have to have great endurance and strength. Like theater, they have to be sensitive and passionate and be able to show that. It is also very physically challenging for women. The physical training is like that for an athlete. All ballet dancers have to possess agility, endurance, strength, and perseverance. Very few people can be really great ballet dancers."

> "My favorite part about ballet is the challenge." -Jenna Bruin (12)

Jenna Bruin (12) has been dancing for the ballet since she was in third grade, and this year she was cast as "Big Mouse," "Dragon Legs," and "the Dew Drop" in The Nutcracker.

"My favorite part about ballet is the challenge. Also, I love how I can communicate my emotions in a unique way," Bruin said.

Unfortunately, it is too late to catch Bruin and Mr. Schmidt in The Nutcracker this holiday season; check back in spring to see Bruin taking part in the production of Cinderella, and Schmidt will be returning in The Nutcracker once again next year.

The spring performance of Cinderella will mark the annual Fort Wayne Ballet collaboration with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Directors have already begun to promise viewers that the show is sure to be "a night of dreams and romance with a bit of humor."

"To live a full life, one needs to experience a variety of human endeavors: academics, fine arts, sports, and performing arts," Schmidt said. "Be open to experiencing a ballet."

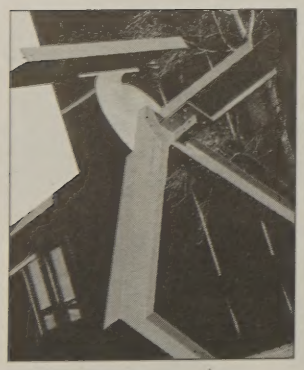
FAST FACTS

Nutcracker-1987
Through: Dec. 10
Season tickets:
$105
324 Penn Avenue

THE FWMoA

A long-standing inner-city museum tries to help make sense of all that modern art

It's hard to not notice the large, reflective piece of metal that lines Main Street. Surrounded by greenery on one side and timeless buildings across the street, the modern art sculpture is placed directly in front of Ft. Wayne's art museum. And like the sculpture itself, the museum may not be world-renown but well worth the time spent examining its intimate secrets.



The museum's executive director, Charles A. Shepherd, wrote that "while our country's artistic heritage does not extend back as many centuries as that of the European nations, America's contribution to the history, and future, of the visual arts is both significant and extensive. Unfortunately, it is also under-appreciated and misunderstood – even by most Americans.

The museum is working to change that.

With permanent collections that focus on 19th and 20th century art, the museum has hosted a variety of traveling exhibitions since its birth in 1921. Current temporary exhibitions include ¡Arte Caliente! Selections from the Joe A. Diaz Collection, Form and Function: 15 Timeless Furniture Designs from the Knoll Studio Collection, and Fusion of Concert Colors. But no matter when visited, the museum offers its best to the residents of Fort Wayne.

> "...[there's] a brilliant display of art and the amount of creative inspiration there is incredible." - Jessica Larue

"It has a brilliant display of art and the amount of creative inspiration there is incredible," Jessica LaRue (12) said.

And while the museum is a haven for everyone from the experienced art critics to the amateur explorers into unknown artistic territory, the museum is multi-faceted. Recently added programs for adults, children, and families give the community an opportunity to learn about art through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. The museum is also known for its shop that truly contains some unique buys, including goods for the home, books, toys, and strictly one-of-a-kind jewelry.

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art, on it's on own little strip of Main Street, is a tribute to the evolving world of art in a city that could use the extra splash of color.

FAST FACTS

Collections: 19th and 20th century art, furniture designs, Knoll Studio, Fusion Concert

DOWNTOWNDRAMA

Finding culture in the midwest? It's there, you've just got to know where to look.

CINEMACENTERFILMS

Indie films are making a comeback: the Cinema Center offers a unique selection

Despite the very obvious name, the Cinema Center of 437 East Berry St. is by no means ordinary. Founded by film enthusiasts in 1976, the Cinema Center provides Fort Wayne with the kinds of motion pictures most theaters don't show and the films that are cast aside too quickly in mainstream movie-going.

"When the last independent film theater was closing, a group of film fanatics got a grant to make the Cinema Center," Catherine Lee, Executive Director of the Cinema Center, said.

The Cinema Center sits in a cozy corner of downtown, home to just one screen. Yet somehow the theater manages to rise above most other movie venues.

Being a non-profit organization, the Cinema Center has a mission statement that pledge to show "the best independent, foreign, documentary, and special films" since "film is entertainment and an art form" that can be "educational."

Recent films at Cinema Center include The Queen, Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont, Keeping Mum, and John Lennon vs. the U.S. These side-market movies provide deep thought, humor, enlightenment, and characteristics sometimes not found in mainstream movies.

"The Cinema Center has an interesting choice of movies that would not be found in any other theater around here," Brian Marks (12) said.

> "...an interesting choice of movies that would not be found in any other theater around here," Brian Marks

The theater rents movies from distributors that range from Miramax, Focus Films, and Sony to lesser known ones, from New York to Los Angeles, just as any other movie theater would, yet goes for the less sought ones.

The Cinema Center shows at least two shows each day at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at their downtown location. They also show the same movies at Indiana Tech, 1600 East Washington Blvd., in the Andorfer Commons.

"We show a diverse selection of good films," Bell said. "Keep an eye on us, we have special events going on all the time."

This past fall, when the Devil's Music Ensemble was hosted at the theater in order to perform a live score to the 1920s silent film, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," the Cinema Center becomes more than just a movie theater.

With the small glass-cased concession stand and cozy feel of the theater, the Cinema Center becomes a place to truly experience the best of the film world.

Send an email to movies@cinemacenter.org to receive a weekly bulletin of upcoming movies. Your name is not given to other companies (no spam).

Upcoming Movies: Running with Scissors and Fast Food Nation, the Queen. Check local listings for more current entries or check www.cinemacenter.org.

CIVICTHEATRE

"Dedicated to serving the Fort Wayne area and surrounding region through excellence in programming"

Nearly eighty years old and hailed as Indiana's second largest community theater, The Civic Theatre of Fort Wayne provides numerous theater performances each year to provide culture for the Northeast Indiana region and surrounding areas.

The Fort Wayne Community Theater Guild was established in 1927. Since then, the theater has changed with the times, from allowing women to participate in the guild in 1955 and relocating three times, starting at the Majestic Theater, moving to the Palace Theater, and finally landing at its current home in the Arts United Center.

The Civic Theatre put on the entire spectrum of shows this past year, ranging from the classic My Way – A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra, to the family-friendly Seussical, from the dramatic Proof, to the musical retelling of the film Big. No matter the show, the Civic appeals to local residents because cast members can be a teacher, a friend, or a neighbor.

"I remember going to a performance of Joseph and the Technicolor Coat by the Civic Theatre," Chase Seely (11) said. "My teacher was in the show so I decided to go see it."

All of the shows by the Civic Theatre have actors and actresses who come from all different backgrounds. Whether the actors are new to theater or experienced performers, the Civic casts all types of people.

> "It was a lot of fun, I made a lot of friends in the show," Phil Thompson on being in Seussical at the Civic

"Being one of the younger ones in the show, I got to be around older and more experienced actors," Phil Thompson (12), who performed in the musical Seussical this past summer, said, "It was a lot of fun, I made a lot of friends in the show."

Auditioning for the shows is available to people who fall into certain age groups defined by the specific theater performance. The auditions, held at the Arts United Center, take place well before the performances in order for rehearsals to begin and perfect the show.

For those not brave enough to face an audience, volunteers can work backstage with lighting, sound, set painting and construction, as well as costumes, dressers, and make-up artists. Volunteers help with ushering, fund raising, and house management and stage management. But with nearly 600 volunteers a year to run the theater, the Civic has its heart in the community.

The theater itself holds 631 people.

The 1931 performance of "Ben Hur" had live horses in a chariot race on a treadmill.

FAST FACTS

303 E. Main Street
January show:
'Into the Woods'
Opens Jan. 19
Tickets: $14-16

DOWNTOWNBOSS

Mayor Graham Richard shares his feelings on the annexation and downtown revitalization

Interview by Puja Parikh
News Editor

Spartana: How has the annexation in Southwest Allen County affected Fort Wayne and SACS citizens?

Richard: Well of course, this has been a challenging time because the annexation ordinance passed before I became mayor and we continued to make all the arrangements and support that, not knowing for sure what would happen with the court decisions. I believe that the annexation has gone very, very well-- we've had lots of compliments. And I know there is a difference of opinion among some who are appreciative of having the city services and other who feel that those weren't needed. But we are really all one community, one city. We're very delighted to have our new residents from the southwest area of Fort Wayne. I think public opinion has improved substantially. That decision is now very much behind us. Increasingly, I think people are feeling very good about the commitments that are being made and the services that are added… we continue to work together with our partners in the neighborhood associations, the township officials, and other local officials.

Spartana: Has the annexation been a success in terms of monetary or economic gain?

Richard: Over time we have to look at that. The regional annexation projected that there would be a substantial increase in tax revenues from the newly annexed area. When we look at it from our perspective, we have spent far more, and probably will through 2009 or 2010, before the tax revenues will equal the amount of money that has been spent on all the services. So, because people pay their property taxes a full year after annexation, a lot of services have been available in the early stages without residents paying taxes for those. At some point, sure, there will be probably be more revenue that comes in from that area, and we benefit throughout the entire city. I see it as: we are all one community and that is what I'm trying to build; a sense of working together, collaboration of spirit. What happens in downtown Fort Wayne is a success, is important, whether you happen to live in Aboite Township, on Dupont road, or off of an area that is next to New Haven. All of the benefits that we reap as a community comes from the assets that many of us share regardless of where we live.

Spartana: Speaking of downtown, can you talk a little bit about the revitalization efforts there?

Richard: I'm excited about where we are headed next, which is to encourage new downtown housing, to encourage more downtown sports activities, and to see additional private investment particularly for retail and housing. In most urban centers you look for density; a variety of opportunities for enjoying life, whether its social activities such as going to a concert, a play, or a ballet, and before or after having the opportunity to go to a restaurant. So, downtown is a gathering place, the heart of our community, and really, the gathering place or heart of this whole region.

Spartana: Do you have any initiatives in place for students?

Richard: One of key objectives in any economic development strategy is to find a way to encourage our bright and talented young people to find, in our community, the types of jobs and the social opportunities they are looking for. The community should be a pretty desirable place for young people. If they do decide to go away for college -- out of the community -- they should be encouraged to come back, start a business, and raise a family. So, for our community to grow, we have to have a very vibrant and active downtown, we need to have continued job opportunities, and we need to be able to encourage young people to find business opportunities or start their own company or business. This is one of the reasons why we have been so active in trying to get high-speed broadband, so that people who want to start a new business have something that you don't have right now in downtown Boston, Austin, or Indianapolis, and that is the capacity to use the web, whether you are talking about MySpace, or Youtube, or maybe you are going to create your own Google. By having the first high speed fiber optics in the Midwest, and the country, you have the opportunity to do everything from video gaming to social networking, to collaboration in real time on the web.

Spartana: Can you talk a little bit about business opportunities in Fort Wayne?

Richard: The city choose to be the first (we have recently been celebrated by other experts in the field) to try to make city government work better by using business practices. We are using these new techniques to save millions of dollars and provide better services and try to keep our taxes as low as possible. I am really pleased that in city government, we are making good headway. The Lean Six Sigma plan is part of this.

PHOTO BY DILLON KIMMEL

Mayor Graham Richard discusses the expansion and renewal of downtown Fort Wayne.

Spartana: Can you tell us a little bit about your position? What it is like to be mayor?

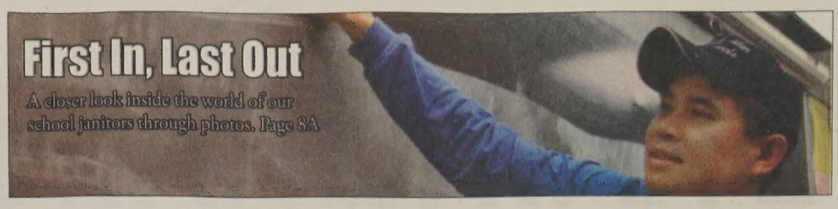
Richard: This is an absolutely marvelous job. Everyday is very different. What I find so challenging is that you have this great passion among people who want to see our city be better. And the mayor has that unique opportunity -- I sometimes call it the "convening authority" of the mayor -- to bring a group a group of citizens together, to bring those who are interested in a problem, whether it deals with a road construction problem that might be controversial, or legislation that the city council is passing on the smoking ordinance. The major has this opportunity to help make those services and opportunities better. It's exciting everyday, there is something new that you don't anticipate…It's just rewarding to see when people come together and work together as a team around a goal how much we can accomplish. Some of your students might be interested in interning, we have those available regularly every year. Some of those folks have the opportunity to go on and do other things like work on campaigns, work on congressional staffs. That's another personal level where you see the opportunities, particularly for young people, to get involved, and make a difference.

> " ...the benefits we reap as a community come from the assets that many of us share regardless of where we live."
> - Graham Richard

Spartana: What is like to be a Democrat in a heavily conservative area?

Richard: I have always looked as the mayor's office as being the most nonpartisan office. I think my campaign has always focused on "how can we get the job done well?" I have a lot of individuals who would probably identify themselves as Republicans who serve in my administration. Obviously, sometimes it's easier if you are in the majority party and don't have as much challenge in the election process. But I've really found people very nonpartisan or bipartisan when it comes to the mayor's office. This is probably the one place where people are looking for results; they want to see the government running well. The ideology behind that is not as important.

issue 8 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana



First In, Last Out

A closer look inside the world of our school janitors through photos. Page 8A

Friday, February 2, 2007

"It's a shame we have to go to Miami; we should just go to Fort Wayne and play this off."

– Tony Dungy, Indianapolis Colts head coach

THE SUPERBOWL

Scores from the past 10 years.

XL - Feb. 5, 2006
Pittsburgh 21,
Seattle 10

XXXIX - Feb. 6, 2005
New England 24,
Philadelphia 21

XXXVIII - Feb. 1, 2004
New England 32,
Carolina 29

XXXVII - Jan. 26, 2003
Tampa Bay 48,
Oakland 21

XXXVI - Feb. 3, 2002
New England 20,
St. Louis 17

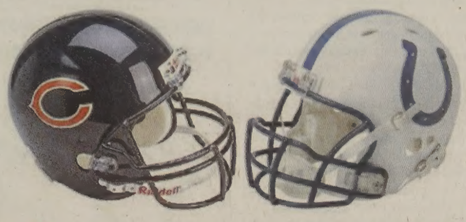
XXXV - Jan. 28, 2001
Baltimore 34,
N.Y. Giants 7

XXXIV - Jan. 30, 2000
St. Louis 23,
Tennessee 16

XXXIII - Jan. 31, 1999
Denver 34,
Atlanta 19

XXXII - Jan. 25, 1998
Denver 31,
Green Bay 24

XXXI - Jan. 26, 1997
Green Bay 35,
New England 21



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IN THE MIDDLE

Staff and students' loyalties split between bowl teams

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

The game has been labeled the dream scenario for sports bar owners throughout the Fort Wayne area: two teams with a similarly rabid fan bases playing on the biggest stage in all of sports. So as the Circle City Colts and the Monsters of the Midway prepare to square off in South Beach on Sunday, Fort Wayne finds itself square in the middle of the mayhem. Resting 160 miles from Chicago and 124 miles from Indianapolis, it's the only significant metropolis in-between the two Super cities.

The debate has inevitably spilled over to the classrooms and hallways, as staff and students display their colors in support of the team they root for year after year.

Shawn Harkness grew up in Peoria, Illinois, about two hours from Chicago. Presently, Harkness serves as an assistant head coach for the Spartans, but his love of football can be traced to when he was four years old. He grew up idolizing the Bears, specifically Walter Payton and Mike Singletary.

"They were outstanding football players, but they were also two great people. If I could meet anyone, I'd love to meet those two," Harkness said.

Harkness moved from Illinois to Indiana 20 years ago, but he says he's had no problem being a Bears fan in a Colt state because the teams don't see much of each other. He also feels slightly torn between the two teams, though he acknowledges his love of the Bears far outweighs his love of the Colts.

See SUPERBOWL on page 2A

THE SUPERBOWL

Airs on CBS at 6:25 p.m. in high definition

LESSER-KNOWN FACTS

No Super Bowl game has ever gone into overtime play.

No Super Bowl has ever ended in a shutout.

No team has ever returned the opening kickoff or a punt for a touchdown in a Super Bowl.

As of the 2007 season, only six teams (Arizona Cardinals, Cleveland Browns, Detroit Lions, Houston Texans, New Orleans Saints, and the Jacksonville Jaguars) have never qualified to play in the Super Bowl.

There has never been a Super Bowl between two wild card teams.

BRIEFS

MOAKE PLANS HER EXIT

Dianne Moake has confirmed that she will not, under any foreseeable circumstances, return as principal next year. Moake announced her retirement late last year and has remained in her position while the district conducts a search for her replacement. SACS hired a national search firm who hopes to begin interviewing candidates in February.

SPEECH TEAM HOLDS MEET

The speech team held the annual Northwest Hoosier Conference meet Jan. 20. Puja Parikh (12), was in charge of organizing the meet which was hosted by Homestead. The members of Homestead's Speech Team swept many of the events. The speech team will be having a fund raiser all of next week. State competition will be held next month.

WOMEN'S BUREAU HOSTS MEETINGS ON TEEN ISSUES

The Fort Wayne Women's Bureau is hosting meetings to discuss teen issues. The first meeting was held Jan. 18, and the Bureau will host another March 1. Teens are invited to the Allen County Public Library to discuss issues and present them to the adults and organizations which influence teen lives.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News : Indiana faces the brain drain, an exodus of college graduates
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial: Editorial board: the administration is to blame
PAGE 4A, Opinions/Editorial: Facebook Forum, students tee off on the issues

New Opinion page including 'Facebook Forum' and Underclassman editorials

PAGE 5A, Life: Students discuss their lives as part of divorced families
PAGE 6A, Life: Math teach Dave Panning writes on life
PAGE 7A, Life: Chris Purdy reviews 'Pan's Labyrinth,' a Spanish-made movie
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: First in, last out: janitors tell their stories through photographs
PAGE 1B, Sports: 13 wrestlers advance to individual regional competition
PAGE 2B, Sports: Boys basketball falls to 1-4 in NHC play, they've lost 7 of their last 8
PAGE 3B, Sports: Girls swimming sectional prelims tomorrow, competition tomorrow
PAGE 4B, Sports: Dance team shares little known facts

'Variety' to be held in March

By Austin Hetrick, Reporting by Greg Kyes
Executive Editor and Writer

By this time last year, tryouts were being held for the variety show. This February, however, no preparations have been made, and for many performance hopefuls the event has long had a question mark hanging over it. The show is a 24-year-tradition and was hosted by the theater department. Theater arts teacher Jennifer Fisher confirmed last week that her department will not be sponsoring the event. Student government takeover has been suggested, and interested students met last week.

See page 3A for Editorial Review

"It will be a real shame if the variety show doesn't happen," show veteran Kurt Nettleton ('06) said. "The variety show is an awesome way for everyone to showcase their talents, especially students that wouldn't otherwise get a chance to perform. It's really a staple as far as student-body activities go."

Nettleton participated each of the past two years, most recently as part of a band playing a song by the Allman Brothers.

The variety show was a project created and run by Ed Koczergo, former theater arts teacher.

See Variety on page 2A

SITTING ROOM ONLY?

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

As a result of rowdy fans at basketball games, students in the front row on the floor are no longer allowed to stand during games. ABOVE: Nick Wirtner (12) and other seniors cheers on the team prior to the rule change.

Students consider a petition against senior finals, school's calendar set for next year

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

The mailman may be the most popular man for seniors this month. Admissions decisions are arriving in force from colleges across the country. Before they can pack up, however, Homestead will have a final goodbye for every senior who leaves high school. Each one of them, no matter how well they've done in their four years, will take final exams before they graduate in May. With their future already decided, many seniors aren't a bit happy about it. Some teacher and students have second semester finals for seniors.

Kara Wall (12) has plans to begin a petition enacting a policy opting out of second semester senior finals if seniors maintain a "B" or above in their classes. Wall and others feel that if seniors have proven that they can maintain their grades over the course of second semester, finals are simply unnecessary. Also, not taking finals may motivate seniors to maintain second semester grades.

"Seniors have little motivation to study for finals and put a lot of effort into their classes when they are already admitted to a university," Henry Shine (12) said. "As a senior, I think that a student who maintains a 'B' average and is admitted to a college shouldn't have to take finals in any of their classes."

Will Kioultzopoulos (12) agrees.

"Considering the fact that these finals are essentially pointless for college recognition, they are administered merely to verify knowledge gained by the student," Kioultzopoulos said. "Allowing students the opportunity to skip finals would just eliminate what most students see as hours of pointless stress and studying. Seniors have very little motivation to do well on finals as it is."

At Canterbury Private High School, seniors who maintain a "B" or above in their second semester classes do not have to take finals. Because many Canterbury students take AP exams, students there feel that taking finals over material that has already been tested on seems unneces

See Finals on page 2A

Show choirs Class Royale and Elite perform tonight

By Katherine Derosa
Writer

It was 4:00 a.m. when the members of the school's show choir boarded buses to head off to their first invitational of the year. After a five-hour drive in the darkness, the choir arrived at their destination. The choirs did not disappoint. Class Royale place sixth in their division and Elite finished in fourth place in the women's division. The groups stayed all night near Mount Zion and returned on Sunday.

"This was one of the most exciting competitions we've ever been to because the level of competition was at a new high," said Alex Tordi (11). "It was very rewarding to even make it into finals with some of the best show choirs in the nation. I think that this will be a very rewarding season because our show can only get better as the year goes on."

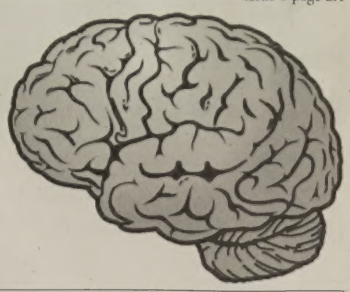
Despite an early morning start, both choirs succeeded in making finals. The day did not end until after midnight when the final results were announced.

Elite, a choir consisting of 40 girls in all four grades, competed in the morning. Class Royale, the mixed choir, consisting of a nearly even mix of boys and girls, performed later in the day. The choirs are judged based on their vocal performance, choreography, and show production.

Elite and Class Royale will perform at Caberet Night this evening. The yearly fund raiser in

See Show Choir on page 2A

BRAINDRAIN



Indiana's colleges rank sixth in recruitment. Once graduated, however, students pour from the state, draining its economic future in a brain power exodus.

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

An exodus has been emptying the state of its most valuable asset: educated individuals. Local students are likely to receive their college degrees from an Indiana college. For the majority of them, however, the state will not be their home long after graduation. Most will move elsewhere, an exodus wreaking economic havoc on Indiana's future.

"Indiana is boring," David Porter (12), who plans to attend Purdue University, said. "I don't really want to live in farmland...though Ohio [where he plans to live] probably won't be much better."

Last month State Senator Jim Merritt (R-Indianapolis) filed legislation which would lease the Hoosier Lottery for 30 years in return for a $1 billion lump sum, regular payments, and a percentage of the earnings of the private company. The funds would be used to allow more Hoosier kids to attend college and also to fund initiatives designed to keep graduates here. Indiana currently ranks 44th out of the 50 states in percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees.

"The government shouldn't be in the gaming business," Merritt said. "Under this plan, everything that is currently against the law will still be against the law; we will just be providing the lottery in a better way—and in a way that will benefit our young people."

Major university presidents have agreed with Merritt's plan.

"Purdue students tell our career counselors that they like living here, but they won't stay if the good jobs are elsewhere," Purdue University President Martin Jischke said in an interview with local media in 2003. "The best long-term solution to this problem is for Indiana to expand its economy and increase job opportunities for well-educated people. In the shorter term, we have to make sure that college graduates are well-informed about job opportunities in the state and that Indiana employers understand what it takes to hire bright young people in a global job market."

In 1999 the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute's Human Capitol Retention Project showed Indiana retaining 30 percent fewer graduates than the national average. Indiana's colleges enroll an enormous amount of local graduates: there are 2.2 Indiana residents who choose to attend college here for ever one who chooses to leave the state to study—this places Indiana sixth among states in recruitment. Purdue is doing something about the problem.

"The state is producing larger numbers of talented graduates than many states, but the brain drain has less to do with the supply of graduates than the supply of good jobs," Jishke said. "Growing new startup companies right here in Indiana offers the greatest opportunity for the state to generate highly competitive, high-tech, innovation-oriented endeavors."

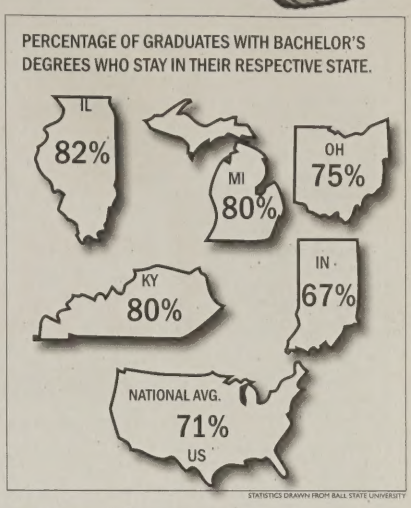
In late 2002 the University began work on a $3.5 million program supported by Lilly Endowment Inc. to stop the drain. The effort is concentrated on two main areas: bringing and retaining high-tech high-paying employers to the state, and finding jobs for students with firms in the state prior to graduation.

"I don't think that in Indiana there are the kind of jobs that superior students are looking for," social studies teacher Susan Summers said.

"There's just a lack of high tech jobs here," social studies teacher Keith Potter said. "We're really more of an agricultural and manufacturing state than a high-tech one."

Students agree that the brain drain is a serious issue for Indiana, but many see no reason to stay after college.

"I want to go to either Chicago or California after college," Mandi Mast (12), who plans to attend Indiana University, said. "Indiana's a conservative state and for me there's nothing to do here that's culturally diverse. Maybe someday I'll come back to raise a family."



'Variety,' continued from page 1A

It brought the drama department $3,000 a year from ticket sales. Began in the 1970's, the show has included local bands, comedians, dance performances, and various other talents. The event sold out for the better part of 24 years.

"The thing about [the variety show] was that for kids in the school who wouldn't do the musical or drama were interested in performing there," Koczergo said. "Where else in that school could you do comedy?"

In the past Koczergo out-sourced the job of judging possible performers to other teachers, and had emcees write their own comedy for between acts. Auditions would be held in late January over two days, and the event would be held on the first Wednesday in Feb. According to Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay, the show may still go on—though almost certainly run by an individual or group other than the drama department.

"The Administration does not mind who oversees the event, as long as it is handled professionally and abides by school rules," Bay said. "An adult (school employee) would need to be in charge of and responsible for the event."

According to Bay there is no mention of the event in Fisher's contract, and she cannot be forced to run a variety show. Some students are dismayed at the prospect of missing the tradition.

"I was totally shocked when I found out that the variety show might not happen," Brad Zehr (12) who performed with the Marksmen last year, said. "Everyone has always just expected the variety show to be there. It's really hard to imagine it not taking place."

> *"The show has always gone smoothly, but I wouldn't really care [who runs it], I just want there to be a show."*
>
> Mike Needler (12)
> Performer

Zehr and other performers don't care who runs the event, so long as it goes on.

"...the show needs to happen no matter what," Zehr said. "A group like student government may be even better because it's a student-run group."

Senior Mike Needler, who performed "Hotel California" last year in a band, agrees with Zehr.

"The show has always gone smoothly, but I wouldn't really care [who runs it], I just want there to be a show," Needler said. "I had a good time and met a lot of new people."

A small committee of interested students met Monday to discuss the possibility of running the event themselves (with a teacher as advisor.) The group's flier is included with this publication.

Superbowl, continued from page 1A

"I've said all week that if the Colts win I won't be as upset as I would be if any other team beat them. Peyton [Manning], Tony [Dungy], and Marvin [Harrison] are all great role models," Harkness said.

Harkness admitted there is a draw to the Super Bowl and that he would love to go once, but he's content watching the game from home.

"If I was single and didn't have kids, I would pay a lot for a ticket. But now I would probably pay face value, $500 or $600," Harkness said.

Harkness said he has two favorite Bears moments, the first being the Bears' 46-10 win in Super Bowl XX, and the second when Walter Payton broke the all-time rushing record. But he admits there's one thing he's remained bitter about.

"I hate that Walter Payton never got a Super Bowl touchdown. He's one of the top three running backs of all time, and in his only Super Bowl they had the ball on the one-yard line, and they hand it off to the Fridge Perry," Harkness said.

For Ally Eppl (9), the third-row end zone seats that await her and her parents each week are just part of the routine. Their basement is littered with dozens of pieces of Colts memorabilia, and their stadium-style home theater is perfect for watching their beloved Colts in action (that is, when they aren't watching in person).

Last Sunday's AFC Championship win was the culmination of nearly 20 years of loyalty for Ally's parents. Tomorrow morning, her parents will board a plane and travel to Tampa, Florida, where they will meet another family member and drive to Miami together.

"I'm so happy for them. They've waited 19 years for this," Eppl said.

Eppl grew up going to Colts games, (over 50 she estimated) but she said she never really got into it until the last two years.

"I used to just sit there and not really care about the game. But my mom has really gotten me into it," Eppl said.

Her favorite moment thus far was at the conclusion of the AFC Championship last weekend, when she got to celebrate the win with the people she grew up watching games with.

"Everyone was yelling and hugging and crying. It was a really cool moment," Eppl said.

In Phillip Krim's (12) household, it is also expected he be a Colts fan. The first game he attended was five years ago, when the Colts fell to the Dolphins 21-13. His favorite moment, however, came in a Wildcard Playoff game against Denver.

"Marvin Harrison caught the ball and fell to the ground, but no one touched him down. He got up and ran all the way into the end zone," Krim said.

Krim said he will be watching intently on Sunday, and a win in the Super Bowl would most certainly vault to the top of his list of favorite moments.

Regardless of which team they cheer for, fans who will watch on Sunday all have their own stories. Those stories of loyalty span months, years, and generations, but the love of a team seems to connect them all.

Finals, continued from page 1A

sary.

Proponents of senior year finals counter these arguments, stating that because students must maintain a certain grade in order to opt out of finals, many seniors will be motivated to take easier classes. In college, these advocates state, students will always have to take finals—getting students ready for the collegiate environment is a key goal of any high school.

Other students disagree with parts of the stipulations.

"I don't think finals really tell you anything more than how well a kid can memorize...but I also don't see why maintaining a certain grade merits not having to take them," Philippe Carroll ('07) said.

Galen Harden (12) and Rachel Childers (12) agree.

"I think a 'B' is a little extreme," Childers said. "But I think if they have an 'A' or above then... they should be exempt for finals second semester. A lot of other schools do it already."

"If seniors below a 'B' average have to take finals, then I think everyone should have to take finals," Harden said.

While students have a wide variety of opinions regarding finals, second semester seniors are still due to take finals in May. Kara Wall plans to begin her petition in the coming days, but until then, Homestead will retain their no exemption policy.

First Semester Finals: Reaction and Date

The controversy over finals began with the release of this year's Southwest Allen County calendars, which stated that finals were to be taken only three days after break.

"I hate having finals after break, especially the first week getting back," Kelly Dickmeyer (11) said. "I don't want to study over break and I forget everything we've done over the semester. It would easier if we just got them done before break."

Jermey Miller (11) disagrees.

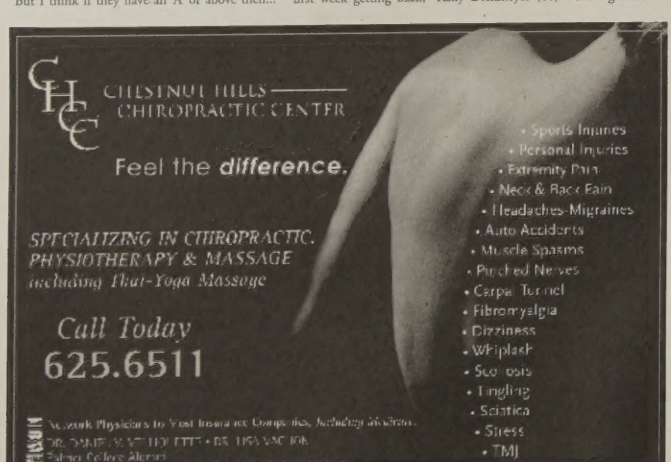
"... I didn't plan on studying anyway... so having finals before or after break didn't really make a difference to me," Miller said. "It was kind of nice actually. The fact that we had an amazing two week break, then an easy week with only two real days with classes... was pretty cool."

Many students worried about their grades on final exams because teachers had very little time to prepare them. After finals were taken, teachers compared exam grades for their classes with those of last year's finals, which were taken a full three weeks after the resumption of school.

. Susan Summers, a social studies teacher, noticed a sight decrease in her World History finals exam scores. While final grades were a third of a letter grade lower than they normally are, Summers stated that she could not discern whether this difference is "...within the error of measurement or if it is a true reflection of student performance. I feel comfortable in saying that this year's scores reflect a lower level of performance. I did have students in this group express that they did not or could not prepare for the final while on winter break, so that may account for the slight decrease."

Jim Schmidt, another social studies teacher, agrees with Summers. "I think psychologically it is better to have finals before the break for students," Schmidt said.

According to several teachers, the analysis over final exams is ongoing and no definite correlation between the date of finals and grades has been established. As of yet, the school board does not plan to change the date that final exams will be administered—the tests will be taken three days after break next year.



Show Choir, continued from page 1A

the past has been attended by parents and friends of participating students. Tickets have been sold for the past several weeks and will be available at the door. Each choir will perform their competition shows throughout the night, giving them an additional run-through prior to serious competition this weekend. The Elite show choir chose "love" as the theme in which they centered their pieces around. To accompany the theme, the songs I Got Love and All that Jazz.

"I think final number [All that Jazz] is the strongest part of our show," says Kate Taylor (11). "I think the group has been working really well together this year and I am excited for the upcoming season."

Class Royale's show has a "Broadway Big Band" feel to it. The show is made of the songs, It's My Life, Teacher Teacher, Let's Misbehave, This Time Around, Where You Are, Everybody Says Don't, and Don't Rain on My Parade.

The group starts their show with the girl's in royal blue dresses and the boys in white suits. Teacher, Teacher and Let's Misbehave are novelty numbers much like Class Royale has done in previous years. The cast uses books to establish a classroom setting and the students "misbehave" while the teacher remains oblivious.

This Time Around, from Cabaret, is the groups ballad. For the finale Class Royale re-enacts a parade, including marching, flag-waving, and flashy band uniforms. This Barbara Steisand medley features the back-up-band Anonymous Blue, led by director Greg Vay.

Because of their recent success, Shannon Olbin (11) is looking forward to the coming weeks.

"It was such a good competition and it will be fun throughout the season to see how much we can improve," Olbin said of the Elite choir's last performance.

The two groups will continue to travel to various competitions in the surrounding area, including their largest competition in Branson, Missouri.

page 3A
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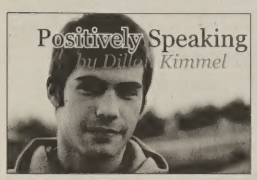
Opinion

Friday, February 2, 2007

Fans' devotion finally repaid

From September to January, my Sundays are booked solid. Sure, I wake up bright and early to go to church, but when that clock hits 1:00 P.M., I'm both emotionally and physically unavailable. My mom tells me I drift off into my own little world, and she's basically right.

In this world, the National Football League rules supreme. Everything else takes a backseat when my team takes the field, the Indianapolis Colts that is. When the Horseshoes go gallop-



ing onto the gridiron, my attention is immediately diverted for the next three hours as I will them to victory.

But I'm not like most fans. I never played as a kid, you could measure with a yard stick the distance I can throw the pigskin, and I wouldn't know the difference between a Cover-2 and a 3-4 if it wasn't for Madden '07. But as I watched last weekend's AFC Championship showdown with the Pats, I couldn't help wondering what draws me to the television each week.

My interest in football first piqued after I attended my first Colts game in 2002. I can still remember it as if it were yesterday. The roar of the crowd. The unpleasant smell of beer and peanuts. The disappointment that filled the stadium when they eventually fell in defeat. But something inside of me clicked, and I realized that football was something that I really enjoyed.

The following year, my passion was cemented when I attended a 2004 Wild Card playoff game. The atmosphere was unlike anything I had ever experienced. 60,000 fans rocking the dome after every snap, the decibel level reaching an unimaginable level every time a Colts player crossed the goal line, which proved to be often in the 41-10 Indianapolis rout. It was unbelievable. I was truly a part of something great, a small part but a part of it nonetheless. I left the stadium a hopelessly addict, the Indianapolis Colts my drug of choice.

I know it is just a game, and I don't pretend the laud it as anything more than that. My life does not revolve around a group of players I will never meet; that would be foolish, but for three hours on a Sunday, yes, the Colts are my primary focus, and I root for them with all I have.

Every fan cheers his team on in the hope that his loyalty will pay off some day, that one day when a championship is brought home, he will be able to say with confidence that he stayed with the team through thick and thin.

My loyalty paid off last Sunday when the Colts finally tossed the monkey off their back and onto the RCA Dome turf, rallying from an early 18-point deficit to stun the Patriots 38-34 to reach their first Super Bowl since 1970.

It wasn't until the blue and white confetti began falling from the rafters and Peyton and Coach Tony Dungy embraced, both teary-eyed, that I realized why I had spent all those hours sweating over this team. That very moment was the culmination of all my time because, naïve or not, I felt like I had won as well.

As exciting as last Sunday was, there is still one game to play. And yes, Sunday's clash with the Bears in Miami is just a game, but it is the pinnacle. I can only hope that I walk away from the Super Bowl with the same overwhelming feeling of satisfaction that I felt two weeks ago. Sure, it's just a game, but I'll be cheering harder than ever before.

CARTOON BY SHANE LUTRELL

Administration fails in planning event

When Drama Director Ed Koczergo was removed from his position last year, the administration considered the matter closed. It was a personnel thing—students had nothing to do with it. This year, as a result of that decision that "thing" has become much more. 2007 would have marked the 25th year for a variety show held in February—but with a new drama teacher in Koczergo's place, and no planning on the part of administrators, the show may not go on. This is no longer a personnel matter; for the students who enjoyed their moment in the spotlight, this is a personal matter.

At last year's variety show more than a third of the student body was in attendance. 700 students watched as Heather Schmidt demonstrated martial arts. 700 listened to The Marksmen as they opened with "Birdland." 700 were there for "My Sharona," for "Blackbird," "Runnoft," and for a dance performance. We watched Nate Haffner and Mike Peck wow the audience with their duet "Wacky Paki Paradise." We watched Danny White and Co. crack up with "Ice Ice, Danny." This year it appears we will see none of them.

If a choir director were fired, would Caberet Night still be expected to go on? If a band director were to leave would the band season go on hold for a year? Of course not, the administration would have ensured that things progressed as they always had. After hiring a new teacher, they should have ensured that the variety show would progress similarly. Instead, they pushed the show onto the busy desk of a new teacher, provided little direction, and merely offered their blessing on any other group who might want to take over the event.

The show may still go on—but not because of anything this school's administration will have done. What happened in the seven months since Koczergo was removed is nothing short of a gross error. Administrators did not inquire whether the new director would be able to handle the show. No announcement seeking a new variety show organizer was sent out to the staff. No contact was made with students who might have been counting on this opportunity. This is unacceptable.

According to Koczergo and others, the show was more than a moment in the spotlight for a select few. What has been remarkable about this show is the variety of performers—both in what they perform and in who they are. From martial arts to comedy, from grunge to classical, from Goth to Prep and everyone in between, this event has brought the school together. Where else can a student with a penchant for martial arts receive the applause she deserves? Where else can 700 students recognize the guitar miracle that is Jon Swain?

Administrators point out that the event has been a drama department fund raiser, but when a new director was hired the responsibility of running the variety show did not fall on a young teacher's shoulders. The lack of action by principals on this issue displays an inattention to students' wishes, and is without a doubt a glaring example of a failure by the present administrators. The simple truth is that administrators removed a long-time organizer, hired a new teacher, and wrote the variety show off as "not their problem." But that "problem" to the students counting on a moment of spotlight, was not a fund raiser or a drama issue—it was their moment.

Of sacrifice, faith, and death: something to remember

By Kara Hackett
Writer

I am a forgetful person. Like most high school students, I have a hard time retaining any knowledge for longer than one day, which is why it surprises me that for the last few weeks I've been hung-up on an event which has become a significant moment in my life. Getting ready for school one morning, by chance, I wandered into the family room of my house. I remember that the television was on and there was a special edition of NBC's "Today Show," which was reporting about a school shooting in an Amish schoolhouse in Paradise, Pennsylvania. I had already heard a brief overview of the story when it first made headlines; however, I had already pushed it to the back of my mind, tossing it into the heaping pile of long forgotten homework assignments and weekend plans. Anyway, I had just caught the end of the report on the shooting, when suddenly the anchor woman who was reporting the story said something that shocked me to my very core.

It was a few days after the shooting had taken place, and a classmate who witnessed three of her fellow students' deaths was asked to tell about what happened when the gunman, Charles Carl Roberts IV, entered the schoolroom. She said that Roberts came in and ordered a select group of students to leave the building; then he threatened to open fire on the remaining students. However, when he made such a threat, one of the older girls, most likely an eighth grader, stood up and offered her own life to Roberts in order to save those of her classmates. Roberts accepted her offer. I was in awe of that little girl. She gave herself up, not only for her friends, but also for her enemies. She willingly offered to pay the ultimate price to save the lives of her fellow students.

Roberts, however, did not stop there. After killing the older girl, he again threatened to open fire on the classroom of students. Again, the unexpected happened. The younger sister of the murdered girl stood and offered herself in the same manner as her sibling. Roberts killed her, and proceeded to kill four additional students aged 6-15. Before turning the gun on himself, Roberts said to those he had left alive, "Pray for me."

Today, I look back on each time this school has practiced a "Code Red" lock down with different eyes. I have always wondered what I would do if an actual gunman entered our classroom; not that I expected it to happen, but just out of morbid curiosity. I used to picture myself trying to jump out a window or hide in a closet or something; not once did it enter my mind to offer myself up as a sacrifice for my fellow classmates.

I consider myself a "good person," and it would be easy to say, "Oh sure, of course I would give myself up for someone else," but I have come to realize that there is a difference between being a "good person" and having great faith—faith enough to make the ultimate sacrifice.

The majority of people in this world are "good:" in fact, I do not believe that I have ever met a truly evil person. However, having the faith or strength to act on that inner good is a whole other issue. In high school it is so easy to be misled and second-guess your beliefs, but these girls had such immense faith in their God even at their young age. They were willing to give up their lives and sacrifice all of their own dreams as a testament to their faith. I have begun to wonder whether I will ever have that type of inspiring faith that is not only present in times of peace, but also steadfast in times of trial.

These thoughts have been racing though my mind for quite some time. It seems today's world is full of so much chaos: we all have schedules made and deadlines to meet. With so much going on in our lives, it is easy to get caught up in the current state of our forgetful society and discard any information that does not directly affect our daily lives. Every once in a while however, something happens to remind us of how connected we really are: and that's something to remember.

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Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

Growing out of the 'Ugly Betty' phase

By Erin Quinn
Writer

The United States remains at war, thousands of our own people are dying daily from disease, and as a nation, our opinions remain grid locked on the political battlefield. But on Jan. 15th, it was irrelevant that our country was losing overseas, because for just a few hours, America was victorious.

As she ascended the steps of the stage where her Golden Globe awaited her, America Ferrara took the graceful steps of a champion for all of the clumsy, bumbling, and downright awkward people in the world that could not. The new role model accepted the honor of Best Actress in a Comedy Television Series for her role in ABC's "Ugly Betty".

She stood upon the podium as a victor and as a young woman who broke the stereotype of Hollywood actresses. America represented the "Ugly Betty's" of the world and addressed the portion of the population who can't coordinate an outfit, can't manage say the right things at the right time, and can't act in a stuffy, proper, and perfect fashion all of the time.

This story of a winner, of a cultural icon who crossed boundaries, correlates with my theory of the dreaded, yet laughable, awkward stage that all humans must deal with. As tiny children, we were all admired for our beauty and flawless design. Almost every young child is precious and adorable as they learn to crawl, walk, ride a bike, and grow into their own being.

That is until they hit their awkward stage. Maybe it was the summer between second and third grade, when you fell down the stairs and had a gash across your forehead that lasted for months. Perhaps your stage lasted an entire year; from the time of your "incident" in which you fell from your bike and landed, literally, on your teeth and lost them for a year until your new ones grew in. For others, especially our beloved gentlemen, puberty brings the horrors of a cracking voice, gangly legs with pants that never fit, and a vocabulary of grunts.

The theory continues, and goes as far as to claim that some teens are sufferers of what I call the "late blooming, long lasting, awkward syndrome." Despite this possibly startling and disheartening proposition, I'd like to share with you that, if you think you might still be in your awkward stage, you are not alone. We could start a club, an Awk. Anon. group, meeting every fifth Tuesday of the month.

You won't see me get down about my own awkward stage, which has persisted into my 16th year. I don't mind being a little different, a little more rough around the edges, and a little less ordinary if it means that I am following my heart. One day I might waltz into school decked in glitzy garb and looking glamorous, if that's what I want. Who knows?

I have discovered this: if you haven't quite caught a glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel of your own stage, keep putting one foot in front of the other and covering ground. Wake up each day and smile, if for no other reason than to be ready for your close up, unpolished "Before" picture that, in the future, will inspire other awkward stagers to keep truckin' on.

If you're fortunate to have already completed your transition from caterpillar to butterfly, be patient with those of us still tangled in our cocoons. The sometimes bulky, sometimes not-so-beautiful outer selves we carry around with us each day will dissolve eventually.

I'm confident that in 20 years, I'll be escorted into our reunion by the man I will have found who enjoys my company and perfectly compliments my nature. I'll pose for pictures with you, my old classmates, as I proudly display my flawless, unwrinkled - and not to mention pale - skin. Months later, I will laugh about the entire ordeal known as my life as I scrawl "After" beneath the picture of joyous late thirty-ish men and women and paste it on the last page of my album of my awkward stage album to provide closure.

Then I will smile at my thumbed, dog-eared page with the picture of America Ferrara, simultaneously holding back tears and beaming, which gave me the motivation to continue, to emerge from the tunnel.

High school: of cookie burns and skeezy boys

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

When I was little I would sit and wait at the table as my mom took the steaming pan of chocolate chip cookies out of the oven. Every time she would warn me "Don't touch them yet, they're hot!" I resisted for awhile, but once, when starvation and salivation took over, I stole a steaming hot cookie. I don't make a good thief, 30 seconds later I was bawling my eyes out and waving my burnt fingers in the air. I'd heard the warnings and the nagging, but did it help? Nope.

Our childhood lessons should stay with us and prepare us for the harsh world known as high school, but often enough we fall into the clichés that we have been so repetitively warned of. How many times have we heard the stories of the boy who falls into the 'wrong' group, the good girl gone bad, and the infamously overused "...but I love you" line. The thing is, everyone can see your coming mistake, they can predict the ending, yes everyone…but you. It's Friday, seventh period, and we are all counting down to 2:35. We live for the weekends, that's how it works. It's our chance to have fun and experience something other than logarithms and lectures, but it's also our chance to mess up. Somehow, despite all the warning, most people fall into typical high school problems. Whether it's ditching our friends for the "wrong group," planning a night with the skeezy boy that seems so perfect, or being the skeezy boy, most of us will blindly fall into these predictable clichés. Why does it happen over and over, why don't people learn…because you never know you're messing up until it's too late. What we have to remember is that making these mistakes is something personal and no amount of presentations, or long lectures can save us from.

"The thing is, everyone can see your coming mistake, everyone...but you."

Ashley Hockney
Columnist

It's such a positive thought, but mistakes are something everyone is going to make. They are a part of high school, a part of growing up, no amount of warning can make the "right" decision for us, and to prohibit mistakes only creates new found curiosity. We have to experience the cookie burn on our fingers, we have to fight the heartache when the skeezy boy breaks up with us. And then, finally, we will learn from our mistakes, even if it takes a million of them to get through.

As I make my way from class to class each day I am torn. I watch as a friend, acquaintance, or complete stranger runs blindly into the pitfalls of teen life. I know some (not all) of the things they are going through, and I know that the outcome will be rough. The worst part is my inability to help them, my necessary complacency. You see, we might be able to nudge people in the right direction, once in a while save a few, but for the most part, people have to learn on their own. As much as we want to warn them of their imminent doom, it's a waste of time.

I know that I am following an overused path right now, [dude, it's a freaking highway]. But I will live my life (thank you AE) and I'm not going to regret the mistakes I make. With each slip up we take a step forward. We live and we learn and we watch while other people make the tumble. It's Friday, the drama starts now. Just wait for the Monday morning gossip, the inevitable pitfalls, and everything you want to change. Do your best to help, it's worth the effort…sometimes. But when that doesn't work, just remember, "The sweet is never as sweet without the sour." Let them grab the cookie, and wait with a band-aid in your hand.

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: Smoking bans

The city has passed several smoking bans which soon will influence Southwest; as of June 1st restaurants will be smoke-free

Philippe Carrol

What's the argument for it right now? I guess I just feel that each particular business' management, be it private or corporate, should be conscious of its clientele and the effects of allowing smoking within their building. Let the consequence of allowing smoking, if there is one, be inherent in the response by the customers, not a government fine. Call me biased...but the ideal holds regardless.

Nathan Fisher

The people who want to smoke in bars will set up 'private' smoking establishments. And the people who don't want to smoke never went there in the first place. I wonder what the law is trying to really accomplish. It sounds good on principal. Seems pretty futile in action.

Brandon Saalfrank

Personally I feel that smoking should be banned in all public places.

Although I agree that one should have the opportunity to make a choice to smoke, the fact of the matter is that it harms not only their health, but also [the health] of those around them.

Furthermore, these people should have the right to breathe fresh air without any smoke: they should *not* be discouraged from going into public places because someone else feels the need to pollute the air.

Sure they do not have to put themselves into this situation, but I feel it is slightly unfair for everyone not to have the same right to smoke-free air in all public places...because they are just that *public* places, for use by everyone.

Naomi Killham

I have to agree with Phil on this one. If a business wants to allow smoking, they should be able to do so. Nothing is making a non-smoker or someone against smoking go where smoking is allowed.

Some might say that it's unfair to the non-smoker to have a building that allows smoking, but then wouldn't it be unfair to the smoker to have a place that doesn't allow smoking?

Spencier Lehman

I don't see why there just can't be a separate section for smokers. Non-smokers don't have to go in there and smokers still get to smoke. Sounds good to me. But I still have respect for others who don't smoke...I just don't see why there can't be some sort of compromise.

THE ISSUE: The war in Iraq

Now in its fourth year, with Democrats in charge of Congress and a new plan from the President, the war is changing

Brian Marks

Time has shown absolutely no proof that Mr. Hussein was involved in those attacks. Also, the weapons of mass destruction that Hussein allegedly owned were never found. An intelligent person might therefore assume the weapons never existed. Our current administration suggests that he just got rid of them lickety-quick.

Starting a war in Iraq was merely a means of covering up the United States' failure to capture Osama Bin Laden and create order in Afghanistan. Even though Mr. Hussein was certainly a very evil man that does not justify bringing the nation into a war with no end in sight. After all, there are many nations ruled by horrible people, yet the US does not go about starting wars with every single one of them.

Not yet, anyway.

Brad Zehr

I agree with Brian and those who feel that the 2003 invasion was made without solid, accurate intelligence, and that indeed no WMDs were discovered. I also understand that the capture and hanging of Saddam has created even more violence and chaos in Iraq than when he was in power.

Leaving Iraq at this point would certainly open the floodgates for mass, regional warfare with a casualty count far exceeding the current rates. Abandoning Iraq would surely worsen the situation throughout the Middle East.

Even if the reasons for invasion were cloudy, it is clear that leaving Iraq the way it is today would make the past four years (and 3,000 U.S. soldier and 50,000 Iraqi civilian deaths) chillingly futile. Let us finish what we start.

Rahul Gupta

The Administration has failed to deter terrorism and terrorist threats in Iraq. If a large presence of troops are necessary, this should be done through multilateral organizations and not through wasteful unilateral deployments of American soldiers. Extended and increased unilateral troops only fuel the fire and simply mobilizes terrorist cells. Greater emphasis should be put on infrastructure and rebuilding the economic foundation of Iraq.

History has shown that civil discontent, especially in the Middle East, is born from a lack of solid economic and infrastructure-based foundation.

Incentives to both businesses and foreign countries should be given in order to spur economic growth and promote security.

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page 5A
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Life

'Pan's Labyrinth' review
See page 7

Friday, February 2, 2007

Life or death,

love or hate,

the question is:

What do you BELIEVE?

By Erin Quinn
Writer

The posters that stare from the walls of the hallways all carry a similar tune: be good. Don't drink, stay away from drugs, be respectful, and watch out for sexual predators. But once the student reaches home and flicks on the television, he is bombarded with a vastly different view of the same ideas: drinking gets you friends, smoking is attractive, and casual sex has no side effects. And while some adults may question the beliefs and morals of adolescents, teens have to sift through a river of media, peer, parental, and religious influences to find beliefs on their own terms.

Students cite their families, friends, teachers, faiths, and the media as the primary influences on their morals and beliefs.

"Being a Christian definitely shapes my basic principles, but my own desires and friends influence me," Hannah Smith (12) said.

The National Study of Youth and Religion in 2006 confirmed that at least 80 percent of American teenagers identify with the Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Mormon, or Jewish religions. The four-year study, conducted by the University of North Carolina, also found that spiritual teenagers hold more traditional sexual and other values than their peers not affiliated with any religion.

"I was basically born into my religion," Stephanie Rumsey (12) said. "I was baptized and went to church every weekend. My mom made me go, but I'm glad she did because the morals I learned have carried me through life."

Students who do not identify themselves as religious recognize that they acquire their beliefs from other sources.

"Regardless of not being religious, I still have core beliefs in being a good person which my parents have taught me since I was a kid," Phil Thompson (12) said.

Teenagers use news television programs, radio broadcasts, and forms of print publications as tools to stay updated in various amounts and, quite simply, to stay entertained. With the violence, sex, and advertisements that filter across televisions, magazines, and movies, the question arises as to how many messages on morality teens see in the media.

"I try not to let the media shape who I am because I'm a big advocate of individuality," Adam Lill (12) said. "I believe that the media affects everyone, in a subliminal way at least, shaping our beliefs to some extent."

A study posted on commonsensemedia.org states that sexual content is present in 64 percent of television programs, and only 15 percent of those carry messages of the risks associated with unprotected sex. In 2003, according to Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 72 percent of teens felt that sexual content influenced the beliefs and actions of their peers.

The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University reported that parents form the biggest contribution toward adolescent morality development, covering such topics as alcohol and drug abuse.

"My ideas originate with my parents, but as I'm getting older I'm branching out more with my own ideas," Rumsey said.

"I would have to say my parents are definitely the primary influence on my morals," Lill said. "For most people, the morals [our parents] imprint upon us in childhood often stick and make an impression in our later lives."

Morality also has roots in psychology; the most famous proponent of development of right and wrong in children was Lawrence Kohlberg, who theorized three levels to morality. Young children are thought to be at the "preconventional level" where they think only in the concrete consequences, or in terms of black and white. As children reach adolescence, they progress into the "conventional level" of moral reasoning where individuals begin to consider social virtues, such as the idea of being a good citizen. Individuals at the third level, known as the "postconventional level," have strong moral convictions and base their actions around what they believe to be right. Third level thinkers place emphasis on principles such as justice, liberty, and equality.

No matter the science or the mechanics of morality, students find their ideals, beliefs, and morals personal and individual.

"I think it's important to live your life by the morals you believe in, not what someone else tells you to believe," Natalie Sistrunk (12) said.

Bridging the divide

Students dealing with divorced parents balance a new family life with academics

By Taylor Harruff
Writer

It's the start of spring break, and Anne is driving toward the airport with her mother beside her. Rain dribbles down the windows as her mother says the impossible: she was leaving Anne's father. She had left a note on his steering wheel as an explanation, and all Anne could feel was that twenty-five years worth of marriage had come to this.

Anne said she had seen it coming; she had seen it in the arguments over nothing, known it in how her mother was never home at the same time as her dad, and felt it in the way no one in her family could talk to each other. Anne – like so many other children – was on her own to survive the fights and deal with her emotions while her parents struggled with divorce.

According to Divorce Magazine, which gathers statistics from the Federal Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, there have been over one million children involved in a divorce since 1997. The same statistics show that in 2000 there were roughly 8,572,000 divorced men and a staggering 11,309,000 women. Currently the U.S. divorce rate is slightly over 50 percent.

But divorces are about more than just the numbers; behind those statistics are men and women whose marriages - meant to be life long commitments - have failed to provide them the stability they desire, and children whose lives are now split between two homes, two parents, and sometimes two separate families

For teens who are experiencing a divorce, presently or in the past, the family problems creep into their social lives, their emotional well-being, and their school life. And because children often don't understand, the divorce can actually have a greater physiological effect on the children than the parents.

"The divorce affected my academics," Maddie Shine (10) said. "I missed an entire week of school because it was too hard to concentrate."

Adolescents going through a split within the family tend to experience emotional withdrawal from family and friends or become aggressive or angry.

"I was so upset at first, but we've all learned to talk to each other," Shine said.

Age can determine the emotional impact children encounter.

"The divorce didn't affect me that much. I was nine, what kind of social life do you have at nine?" Perez said. "I was so young I didn't really know what was going on, and that really helped."

Even children who are in their later years of adolescence will still have questions regarding their parents split. Psychologists and family experts say that communication is key.

"My mom and I talk about it all time," Shine said. "It gets better everyday."

Joint custody of children also accompanies a divorce and can prove to be stressful and emotional for both the parents and child.

"I have to drive four hours, and take a two hour plane trip any time I want to see my dad," Elena Perez (11) said. "I really don't get to see him as much as I would like."

The majority of custody battles tend to end in favor of the mother, but the decision is based upon who provides the most substantial living environment, and who can financially provide for the children.

Once the divorce is final, the rebuilding process begins.

"We are just starting to look at a new house and other major decisions," Shine said. "It's hard to do, but we support each other on everything."

For some families, the final results of the divorce can result in a major move to a different household, which can often come with redistricting to another school. The process of changing schools can be difficult because of the challenge of adapting to a different life and making new friends.

"I would have been in a totally different school," Perez said. "But I ended up [at Homestead], which is something positive about the situation."

Statistics say that even after the entire process of filing for a divorce, about 52 percent of children involved said that they found that their parents were happier, and it was better for the family.

"The best part of the divorce would be that my parents are happier this way," Perez said. "I used to hear my parents fighting in the backyard. They are much better off since the divorce."

The reliable friendliness of Thursday night television

PHOTO BY ZACH HEITRICK

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

Philo T. Farnsworth invented the television in 1927. I think he was my grandfather's second cousin twice removed or something. I know he grew up on a farm, lived in Fort Wayne, and "died drunk and depressed," to quote my brother's third grade report. Thank you, Philo – your invention has made each Thursday night of my senior year a little brighter.

I wish I could say that I could quote poetry or useful statistics or Supreme Court decisions. Instead, I can hold entire conversations using only the words of Dwight K. Schrute, who is not a philosopher or author or even a real person. Dwight is Assistant (no longer "to the") Regional Manager of the Scranton branch of Dunder Mifflin Paper Company. He's a character on NBC's *The Office*, played by Rainn Wilson. And he makes me laugh more consistently than 98 percent of my peers. I love watching him get angry. I love the way he says "question" before asking something. I love his fist-pumping, his determined pacing, his stares at the camera, his sly grin of victory. I'd probably run away from him in real life, but as long as that glass screen separates us I am free to cheer on this self-described "Fascist" nerd.

Is my television habit a waste of valuable study time? Perhaps, but I think *The Office* educates me in ways that high school cannot – thanks to it, I have learned how to properly gut a goose, cremate a bird, order an awesome blossom ("extra awesome"), buy a condo, choose a mate, tackle fear, advertise myself (posters with acronyms help), deceive a boss, mirror someone's personality, close a paper sale, and operate a toaster oven without starting a fire.

Aristotle said that fiction should show the world not as it is, but as it ought to be. I wish that my world was more like the fictional Scranton branch, with funny pranks and amusing power struggles and sweet romances and trips to Chili's, the ice rink, the ER, and the Schrute beet farm. I freely admit it: I live vicariously through television characters. So do millions of other Americans.

Television has gotten a bad reputation; of course there's a lot of junk out there, but it's not all brain-rotting garbage. Serialized stories have a deep, rich tradition: The Odyssey was originally told in installments by ancient bards, Victorians devoured Dickens's serialized novels, and comic books entertained millions of boys and girls in the days before everyone had Saturday morning cartoons.

In today's society, television is the perfect medium for telling these epic tales. Series are comforting and exciting. Every week, familiar faces reappear and reveal their lives to us without asking for anything in return. While you know a novel will end in a fixed amount of pages, a movie in hours, a play in acts, the complete resolution of a series is never in sight. It's something to look forward to, an escape from mundane midwinter evenings of homework.

Best of all, following a television series is a community experience: you watch with friends, discussing the plot during commercial breaks and the conversation continues into the next school day, expanding as predictions for next week's episode are made.

Mostly, though, I love *The Office* because I watch it with my brother and sister. The show is funny, but recalling great lines afterward is even better. If I'm in a crummy mood, my sister Lily knows a Dwight quotation will make me smile. My brother Lee can argue against me about anything, but we will always agree that *The Office* rocks. Next year, I'll be at college, but I'm still going to watch each week and IM Lily as soon as the episode ends. I can write this column and ramble for hours, can't really express the value of The Office. Just watch it. As Michael Scott would say, "It's simply beyond words. It's incalculacable."

Diving into a different kind of education

Erin Kniss hopes to dive in Virgin Islands while attending part time college

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

Under a flutter of applications and scholarship deadlines, seniors are busy with planning the next four years of their lives. But one student has taken a different path, a path that is surprising not only because it is a step from the normal, but because for many Fort Wayne residents, it's truly exotic. Senior Erin Kniss has flat out decided she doesn't like school; marching band and orchestra just don't cut it, and the thought of classes for seven periods a day makes her queasy.

Instead, Erin has decided to travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands to continue with her passion for scuba diving and attend college part time. Off the beaten path (and completely underwater), Erin's plans are startlingly unique. She sat down with *The Spartana* to tell all.

Spartana: Most seniors are heading off to college, but you're not.

Erin: I'm going to go down to the St. John Virgin Islands where I'm going to get either my dive masters or my instructors in scuba diving so I can certify people and lead guided tours. I have applied to the University of Virgin Islands. I would go part time to school and part time to work. I'd be working on the boat or in the dive shop some of the days.

Spartana: Where did the interest come from?

Erin: I went down to the Virgin Islands for three weeks during the summer and I got certified in diving. I went through a group called Longacre Expeditions. The first week we took boat trips to the Virgin Gorda and areas around St. John. The second week we kayaked all over the British Virgin Islands, and we did a total of 36 miles in five days. The last week we spent diving. I really picked up interest and they offered me a job to come back for the summer. Then I decided that I want to do more.

Spartana: How did you convince the parents?

Erin: My mom says it's not the average get out of high school and go to a four-year college plan. And I think I threw a curve ball at them because I'm not the four-year college type of girl.

My parents thought it would be me going down and playing on the beach all day, becoming a beach bum. I fought for it, [and] I had my arguments with my parents. It was easier for my dad. I sat down with my dad and explained to him exactly what I was doing.

Spartana: Not be to the cynic, but what if it doesn't work out?

Erin: If it doesn't work out for the year…I don't know. I'm pretty certain that I'll get in [at the University of the Virgin Islands]. The university isn't that hard to get into.

Spartana: How was the application process different from what you've heard about application to U.S. schools?

Erin: The application was nothing. I had to fill out my name, address, social security number, and [give] my transcript. I got recommendation letters just in case they asked me.

Spartana: Aside from your parents, what has been the overall reaction?

Erin: I get mixed reactions. When people ask me what I'm doing they're like, "You're crazy, you're never going to get a job." I'm just like okay, thanks. It's hard to talk about it to your friends, too, because they're so excited for a four year college, and I'm like, "I'm excited for…work."

I get some "That's really cool, good for you, it's good that you're doing something different and that it's something you're interested and good at and that you know you like." I think I've mentioned it to one or two [teachers], and they just think that's really neat. One of them brought up the "when are you going to go to college?"

Spartana: Do you think that schools, counselors, or parents don't place enough emphasis on other educational opportunities?

Erin: I wish that people weren't so, "You have to go to a four year college," because a lot of kids who don't do well in college aren't ready but are forced into it. I just wish they extended as an option that you should go to college but go when you're ready, or just go for a two year degree, or get certified in something.

Spartana: What advice do you give to students who are weighing the different college choices?

Erin: I just think they should do what they think is best for them. I always knew that a four-year college just wasn't for me. I don't like school. I'm not interested in going to a college where everyday I'd have to go to a certain class for four years.

I'd rather do something where I could get a degree but at my level – I could do two years and go back again and do another two years.

Spartana: What other exotic things have you been hiding?

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Erin: In the summer of my sophomore year I traveled to Costa Rica for ten days with a group from Canterbury. They just went for community service, and I went with them because I know the coordinators from my church. We worked on a turtle plantation. We went out at night, patrolled along the beaches, and collected their eggs to save them from poachers.

Spartana: So the big question: Colts or Bears?

Erin: Colts.

American Idols shine off-camera with their own music, blending unique personalities with their distinct voices

By Brad Lufkin
Writer

American Idol is back with more great singers, more average singers, and more William Hungs. Into its sixth season, the show that swept the nation has turned out many mediocre singers, but a few have proven to be stars above the rest.

Breaking from the normal routine of American Idol contestants singing a lot of pop ballads, Fantasia Barrino released her second album, Fantasia, with mainly soulful R&B. According to a monsterandmusic.com review, the album "lacks standout singles and rarely does the singer take her raspy vocals to their highest peak. Instead, it's the risk-taking efforts that propel the disc and establish Fantasia as a force in R&B."

Her classic sounding R&B performances are wonderful and her voice perfectly suits her unique music. It is a much overlooked album, and is probably one of the best collections of R&B in 2006 with no filler songs.

Fantasia starts off with an up-tempo R&B track with sort of a dance feel, titled "Hood Boy," featuring OutKast's Big Boi. It's a very catchy song set on a Supremes sample that has been recognized as one of the best R&B numbers of the year.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

"Fantasia"
December 12, 2006

"Hood Boy" is followed by the slower, mellower mood song, "When I See U," subtly showcasing her voice. Fantasia's voice is rooted more in gospel, which makes her decision to make an R&B album obvious. Still she is capable of making common R&B sound extraordinary.

Later comes "I Feel Beautiful," and it's an excellent jam. With the lyrics written for her mother, the song comes across as both poignant and simply good music. The final song, "Bump What Your Friends Say," sounds more mature with gospel soul and completes the CD.

Henry Goldblatt for *Entertainment Weekly* wrote that "of all the new Idol-connected entries, [Fantasia] comes closest to showcasing an artist who has something original to contribute to the industry."

Fantasia has matured a lot with her singing, and her vocals are more balanced. She is setting a style that she can build her career upon with this album, all the while breaking free of the normal American Idol routine.

New album by Taylor Hicks keeps true to his innovative character

Upon first look, Taylor Hicks didn't seem like an American Idol with his head of silver hair. But his Ray Charles, Michael McDonald, and Joe Cocker influenced singing allows his audiences to look past his image – and with great success.

His self-titled album holds true to his personality. Both Members and non-members of the "Soul Patrol" fan club will enjoy his first major label album (Hicks released two independently made albums in 1997 and 2005).

"Taylor Hicks"
December 12, 2006

He created this album based on his own ability instead of just mimicking the other American Idol winners past. And while some critics say that his new trends are far from what American Idol viewers cast their votes for, he shows up with his soulful style and, in the words of Paula, "really makes it his own."

"Where Ever I Lay My Hat," a cover of a Marvin Gaye song, is a mid-tempo old-style R&B that highlights his vocal strengths as well as another one of his musical talents: he plays the harmonica.

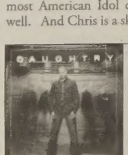
A remake of an original song from his independently made 2005 album *Under the Radar*, "Soul Thing," is a catchy song full of upbeat instrumentals that showcases his passion for singing. "The Right Place" was originally written for Ray Charles, but with Hicks it is a wonderful gospel-soul track that is ideal for Hicks' soulful voice.

His latest album stays true to Hicks' innovative character, and as long as albums to come follow the same path, Taylor's passion for music and talent will pave a road in the music business for him in the future.

Daughtry rocks out to his own written lyrics and stand-alone voice

Daughtry is the self-titled debut album of the band formed and fronted by the season five American Idol finalist, Chris Daughtry. While receiving harsh reviews from Christian Hoard of Rolling Stone, the album blends rock and the standard issue American Idol emotions along the lines of bands like Nickleback.

Chris Daughtry wrote or co-wrote ten of the twelve songs on the album as, something that most American Idol contestants don't do that well. And Chris is a skilled and polished writer;



"Daughtry"
November 21, 2006

the lyrics go amazingly well with the creative melodies, and the band pays just as much attention to developing the lyrics as the music.

The first song, "It's Not Over," is full of emotion and has a rock feel with a good melody that is, according to *Entertainment Weekly*, "ridiculously catchy."

While the majority of American Idol contestants fall into the same category of just a run-of-the-mill pop artist, a few stand out and don't follow the same path. Chris Daughtry formed a band after American Idol, which is quite a feat, and the band has no reason to bow its heads; they rock it out pretty well.

"Home" is a track that could have definitely been released as a single. It's an amazing ballad that was written by Chris before he even ventured on American Idol.

And while it seems that the critics have been harsh on Daughtry's emotional rock-out (with Rolling stone giving two out of five stars), fans have been more generous with praise.

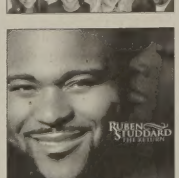
Chris made the right decision in forming a band, and Daughtry is a good album that exhibits the wide range of his voice.

Other American Idol Contestant Releases

"Some Hearts"
By Carrie Underwood
November 15, 2005

"American Idol Season 5 Encores"
By Various Artists
May 23, 2006

"The Return"
By Ruben Studdard
May 17, 2006



Dave Panning: moving too fast, going nowhere

By Dave Panning
Math teacher

I sat looking at the water come out of the fountain and splash in the pool below. People all around were full of excitement and joy. Most of them, like myself, had just finished the Chicago marathon. It was early October, 1996, and it was the second time I had run this particular race.

I was eating parts of power bars and bananas and drinking water I had recently been handed. I was proud of what I just accomplished but did not recognize anyone around with whom I could celebrate. So I sat at the edge of Buckingham Fountain only blocks away from the finish line and waited for my wife who I knew would meet me there in a few minutes.

The following minutes resulted in some of the most valuable minutes in my busy and often tumultuous life. I learned that silent meditation even among a crowd of busy people is a healthy practice.

I thought about all the people who I was able to talk with along the route. They each had a story to tell and a friend in the crowd along the way to lift their spirits. I realized that although I was able to meet many people that day, they would all now become strangers again as we went our separate ways. As I watched as many of those runners were reunited with their loved ones at the fountain, I thought about how long I had trained and how happy I was that my goal had been realized.

Then my thoughts grew to a bigger scale. I began to think about all the people that - like in the marathon - had come in and out of my life. People who were once my best friends or had a great influence on me while growing up were now lost in a crowded and busy world.

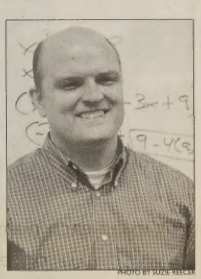


PHOTO BY DAVE PANNING

I realized that the person I had become was influenced a great deal by people who I no longer even knew. As runners were reunited with their loved ones among a crowd of people, I began to appreciate the small number of loved ones I had in my life from the vast number of people in the world.

Although running the marathon was important to me, I thought intently about how life was much like this race: the finish line in a marathon is a welcome sight, but in order to be reached, it must be the focus of why you run.

More importantly, a meaningful life is one that has purpose. Finding a purpose and allowing that purpose to guide your thoughts and actions allows your life to be more rewarding.

I know that people of all ages today fill their lives with activities that occupy their time and energy. We run faster and faster but too often find that at the end of the day are no closer to where we want to go than when the day started. Too often we do not even know where it is that we want to go. We just go for the sake of movement.

Being still is not something that we like to do. I have found that being still and reflecting on things that are more important than the here and now is a rewarding practice. I love the energy students bring to the classroom. I am encouraged when new students enter my room full of enthusiasm, like in a race when strangers along the side encourage you to keep going.

My life will one day be complete. I look forward to looking back on my experiences in life as I did on that October morning when I looked back on my experiences in a marathon. The completion of my goal in the marathon was reached because of hard work and produced a sense of personal accomplishment.

The completion of my life be will met when God chooses and will produce a joyful celebration in what God has allowed me to become. Until that day, I will cherish every moment I am given. I will look forward to crossing the finish line of life and celebrating with thousands of others at a fountain somewhere in Heaven.

television&bookreviews

Dirt

Airs: Tuesdays on FX at 10:00 p.m. EST

In only its first month of episodes, *Dirt* has come onto the television scene with mixed reviews. The show is based upon tabloid magazines – and in particular, Lucy Spiller's (Courtney Cox) brand of magazine that uses the dirtiest methods to get the scoop. The exposé premise falls short, though, because the sleazy antics of the paparazzi come as no surprise. Cox's character has been criticized for being flat and two-dimensional while the supporting cast, including a schizophrenic photographer named Don Konkey (Ian Hart), has potential for carrying the show through Cox's rough characterization. The show is in a prime spot for delving deep into the dirty work of the paparazzi, but critics say it falls short and abuses its cable freedoms by bordering on dirt that is almost too graphic. Overall *Dirt* takes a dark road to Hollywood and gives viewers a glimpse of a supremely shallow world. Unfortunately, it's predictable, and according to most reviews, *Dirt* falls flat.

The Historian

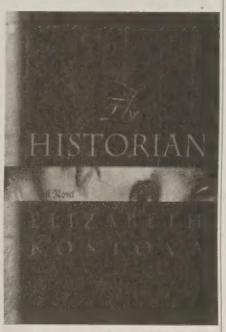
by Elizabeth Kostova

It's a hefty book, spanning almost seven hundred pages and three generations that mingle together into one story. Not so much a retelling of cultural and political history of Europe as it is a head-first dive into the strange connections between events in the past, *The Historian* is darkly entertaining and utterly absorbing.

The novel centers on a book – blank on all pages but the center spread, where a woodcut dragon snarls at the reader. Both a warning and a symbol of the famous Vlad Tempes (more commonly known as Dracula), the dragon book connects the various individuals in the story who are determined to find out more about Dracula and to discover the darkest of secrets: whether or not Dracula still lives as a vampire. But the trouble with finding the elusive and infamous tyrant proves to be dangerous and deadly.

The first to go on the hunt was Professor Bartolomew Rossi, an esteemed professor who after forgetting about his dragon book becomes interested again and mysteriously disappears. He leaves behind only letters for his "unfortunate successor," a former student who also possess the dragon book and who sought Rossi for help.

The student, Paul, takes up where Rossi left off with only the letters and a reserved and cynical companion, Helen, for help and company. They trek off to Europe in order to trace the path and hopefully find Rossi before whatever evil is lurking kills him.



Fast forward twenty years and the reader meets Paul's daughter. She discovers Professor Rossi's letters, as well as letters from her mother whom she never knew. And when her father, too, vanishes with orders for her to stay put, she instead begins her own journey across Europe to solve the mystery of her family's unfortunate tie to Dracula.

In prose so easily and soundlessly constructed, major cities across Eastern Europe are brought to life in sounds and sights. All the individual stories merge together to form a dark tale of Dracula and, more importantly, of the atrocities throughout history that are often overlooked.

Amazon critics agree with Paul's daughter's words upon her discovery of Dracula's gruesome torture methods: "For all his attention to my historical education, my father had neglected to tell me this: history's terrible moments were real. I understand now, decades later, that he could never have told me. Only history itself can convince you of such a truth."

Little Children

by Tom Perrotta

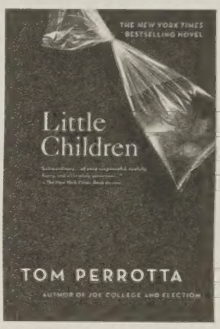
With its movie nominated for three Oscars, *Little Children* is the tale of adults who are defined by their children - stuck in a suburban bubble of gossip and day care, the characters of this novel come to life through Perrotta's clear humor and satire on being the goldfish in the bowl.

Sarah, mother to a cute little girl and wife to a perverted and distant husband, finds herself smacking into the glass walls. She longs for her college years, where feminism ruled and being educated didn't make her the odd woman out. Then she meets Todd, the "Prom King" of the playground. Todd is similarly unhappy as his wife pushes him to pass the bar exam and raise their son at the same time, but Todd finds himself wistfully watching teens skateboard in the evenings instead of studying.

In an act of defiance and to prove herself to the other playground mothers, Sarah kisses Todd. An affair ensues.

But the affair is short and heated, lasting only so long as their dreams and momentary escape from unhappy marriages and child rearing. Like adolescents stuck between childhood and adulthood, Sarah and Todd find themselves smashed between their own children and their long-lost dreams of how they envisioned their adult lives.

Meanwhile the community feels threatened by Ronnie, a pedophile who has just returned from jail. His mother hopes that he will turn out all right, but Ronnie - much like Sarah's refusal to join the crowd of playground mommies - cannot do as is expected of him by society.



And Larry, an ex-cop whose life is defined by the little boy he accidentally shot on duty, is determined to hunt down Ronnie and remove him from the community as an act of atonement.

Just as Todd and Sarah's affairs reaches the highest point of betrayal and sacrifice, Larry's chase after Ronnie, too, draws to a close. And as Sarah waits for Todd on the playground, the other characters appear, one by one, to face the symbol of the very thing that has shaped all of their lives: children.

In New York Times Book Review on March 14, 2004, Will Blythe wrote that Tom Perrotta's novel "raises the question of how a writer can be so entertainingly vicious and yet so full of fellow feeling. Bracingly tender moments stud Perrotta's satire...at once suspenseful, ruefully funny and ultimately generous."

sudoku

								4
	2					8	3	9
	8				4			
			3			1	7	
		3	9		7	2		
	6	2			8			
			5				4	
1	9	4					2	
8								

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

filmreview

by Chris Purdy

Pan's Labyrinth

It is rare that a masterpiece of fantasy cinema comes along at all, let alone one that is completely original and not already based on a literary classic. Not since the ground-breaking *Lord of the Rings* trilogy has a film been so magically enthralling. For the past several years, the genre has been sustained almost entirely by films like *Harry Potter*, *Narnia*, and *Eragon*, and while these may be entertaining to many, they pale in comparison to the inspired genius of *Pan's Labyrinth*. Beautiful, enchanting, brutal, and heartbreaking, this fairy tale for adults is a true work of art.

The story follows a young girl named Ofelia, who is growing up in Fascist Spain after the Spanish Civil War. Her father has died, and she is traveling with her mother to their new home where she will live with her new father, Capitán Vidal. Being in the family of a Captain has its benefits, but this man embodies everything that is Fascist and totalitarian and rules the household, military division, and local countryside with the iron fist of fear. El Capitán, as they call him, is the coldest, most heartless villain in a movie since Amon Goeth in *Schindler's List*, and is actually eerily reminiscent of that character. Completely lacking a conscience, Vidal will not hesitate to kill anyone - not even his own family - if he is crossed in the slightest. He cares only about the well-being of himself and his unborn son, and not that of his new wife or daughter.

Ofelia's reality is a harsh and cruel one. Even if she were to leave Spain, she would only be met elsewhere with the dismay of World War II. It is a dark time, and her only escape is into the realm of fantasy. As the film opens, before we even meet Ofelia, a legend is narrated to us in the deep, mysterious voice of the faun. We learn that many years ago, the princess and daughter of the king of the Underworld crept up to the surface out of curiosity, but as a result, lost all memory of who she once was, and eventually died among the humans. Her soul, however, remained, awaiting the day when she would finally return to her home in a different form.

While exploring, Ofelia stumbles upon a stone labyrinth near the Captain's compound. Upon investigating further, down an underground staircase, she meets the faun. Immediately, he knows that Ofelia is the reincarnation of the princess, and from then on he guides her as she passes the perilous trials and tests that are required of her in order to return to the Underworld. As the film explores the theme of fantasy versus reality while weaving in and out of violent, realist war drama and dark, fairy tale fantasy, one can only wonder: Is the fantasy all in Ofelia's mind? Is she creating it simply to escape her own life? This bitter look at suffering and the end of childhood is what makes the film so original and emotional.

During the harrowing realist narrative of the movie, which makes up the majority of the story, we almost cannot wait to get back to the fairy tale parts. When we do, though, we see that it, too, is dark and unsettling; that it is what a girl coping with a world of cruelty comes up with in her mind. One of the main questions the film raises is that if reality is so unbelievably full of evil and brutality, then why should magic or fantasy be any harder to comprehend or believe in? Which is harder for a child to wrap her mind around, the reality of being helplessly trapped in a Fascist state, or the fantasy of being a princess on her way back to her kingdom?

Pan, played by Doug Jones, and Ofelia, played by Ivana Baquero, in director Guillermo del Toro's *Pan's Labyrinth*. All photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

These complex and introspective questions (along with the haunting tone, brutal violence, and language) are what make this a fairy tale only for adults; do not take kids to it. The film makes us miss the innocence of childhood, and lament it when we see it taken away so mercilessly. Still, it remains a moving and beautiful testament to the power of a child's imagination and fantasy. Everything about this movie is outstanding, from Guillermo del Toro's gentle but evocative direction, to the superb performances, effects, and art design. Since it is a film by a Mexican director and it takes place in Spain, it is entirely in Spanish with subtitles, but that should not turn anyone away. In fact, glancing at subtitles will actually pull the viewer deeper into a story. It is one of the most exceptional movies in recent years, and is among the greatest fantasy films of all time. *Starring Ivana Baquero.*

Purdy's Rating: ★★★★

Recent Releases

Night at the Museum ★★
Children of Men ★★★½
Curse of the Golden Flower ★★★
The Fountain ★★★½

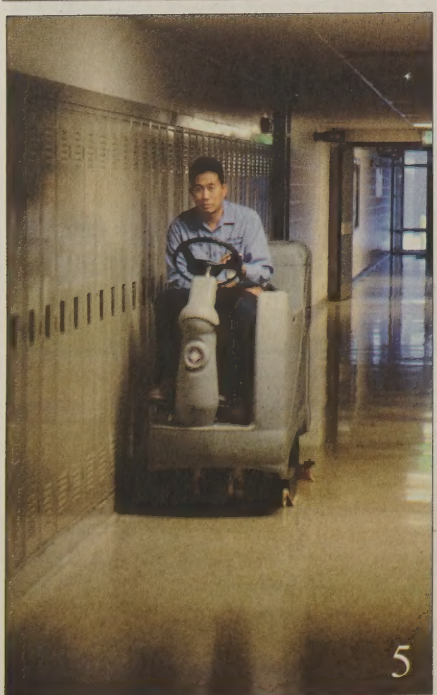
Upcoming:

Hannibal Rising 2/9
Norbit 2/9
Ghost Rider 2/16
Bridge to Terebithia 2/16

In the rush from class to class and day to day, we sometimes forget those who are...

Eye Contact:
A photo essay by
Zach Hetrick

First In and Last Out



1. Scott Banks cleans a drinking fountain in the Freshmen Academy. Each custodian is assigned a specific part of the school to clean; these sections are divvied up by their respective room numbers. 2. Custodian Phetsamone Bounket, as well as his co-workers, have an established routine for cleaning a classroom: they begin by emptying the trashcans and straightening the desks, and then they clean the boards and sweep the floor. The routine takes around ten minutes to complete. 3. Ebb Dornseif mops the floor at the front of the building. 4. Robert Moore sweeps the floor in Tom Stephensen's classroom after school. 5. Every night the hallways and common areas are swept. The operator of this machine makes many passes in the hallway to polish the floor. 6. Dornseif empties a trashcan in Steve Clough's English classroom.

issue 8 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

Swimming Dominates
page 3B

Friday, February 2, 2007

Advancing to regionals

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY: CAULIFLOWER EAR

From daily practices to tough matches, wrestlers take a beating. But their ears can be especially hurt, and this may result in Cauliflower ear.

HOW IT FORMS: Cauliflower ear forms when the ear is struck repeatedly or hard enogh for a blood clot to form under the skin. Another way for it to form is for the skin to be stripped away from the cartilage.

A tear, bruise, or blood clot can block blood flow and the cartilage can die. Without cartilage to keep the firm, round shape of the ear, it shrivels and begins to look like a cauliflower.

HOW TO PREVENT: The best way to prevent it is to wear proper head gear while wrestling. Also, a doctor can drain the blood from the ear through a cut and then reconnect the skin to the cartilage by applying a tight bandage. Sometimes stitches are needed.

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.KIDSHEALTH.ORG

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Kyle Luithly attempts to pin an opponent at a recent meet while the judge looks on, ready to blow the whistle in Luithly's favor.

13 wrestlers advance to individual regionals, Wight, Fahlsing, Smith, and Bostain win their respective sectional weight classes

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The wrestling team placed second in sectionals, and 13 wrestlers will advance to individual regionals. After placing fifth out of eight teams at the NHC meet, the wrestlers worked hard to perform at a higher level for sectionals.

On Saturday, Jan. 27, the wrestling team defeated eight other teams in order to advance to regionals. Tucker Smith (10), Justin Wight (11), Andrew Fahlsing (11), and Will Bostain (12) were sectional champions at New Haven.

Nine other players placed in the top four of their weight class in order to advance to individual regionals.

"I was the champion at both conference and sectionals. We prepared ourselves, and we realized that it was boiling down to the end of the season so we stepped it up at Sectionals." Wight said.

The team wrestled at regionals on Jan. 1 but due to press deadlines results were not available. The individuals will wrestle tomorrow. During the first round the wrestling team faced Columbia City, and with a win would have wrestled either New Haven or Carroll.

The wrestling team had yet to beat New Haven, in the four meetings at sectionals, conference, the New Haven Invitational, and the NHC Triple Dual.

Throughout the regular season and thus far in the post season, Wight has remained undefeated. So far this wrestling season he has won 23 straight matches and is ranked second in state. Wight was not only the sectional champion but also the NHC conference champion, despite the team's fifth place finish.

Several wrestlers of the team, including Ben Hazen (10) and Pat Nagel (12) agree the Justin Wight will do very well at State and Semi-state. Last year, Justin Wight was able to make state and has shown promising results to be in the same position this year.

"I feel good going into regionals undefeated. I put a lot of time into it and worked really hard, and it took a lot of mental preparation too. I do a lot of extra things, beyond going to practice, like going to the "Y" and working out." Wight said.

At the NHC meet, the wrestling team lost to Bellmont, New Haven, Carroll, and Columbia City. One of the usually elite wrestlers, Kyle Carlson (12), placed fifth out of seven wrestlers in the 140-lb. weight class. There were four players with second place finishes including Smith, Shane Ruckel (11), Fahlsing, and Bostain. However, Wight was their only champion.

"We are struggling with consistency. Some wrestlers did really well the first time, and they came out and wrestled the next match really dull. We had one champion Justin Wight." Hazen said.

After a poor performance at the NHC meet the wrestling team did much better at sectionals. The team worked hard to keep up their level of play and hoped that work would pay off going into both regional competitions.

SECTIONALS:	MOVING ON:		
New Haven 287	Tucker Smith	Frank Galilei	Shane Nelson
Homestead 261.5	Justin Wight	Shane Ruckel	Phil Reiman
	Ben Hazen	Kyle Carlson	William Bostain
		Andrew Fahlsing	Logan Williams
		Jobe Thompson	Jason Simpson

Played, but not praised

Despite strong student involvement, club sports receive less attention, fewer opportunities

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Generally, sports are important to students. They care about how the football team will do against Snider, or whether the basketball teams will be strong this year. Yet despite the general interest in sports, there are a few teams and individual athletes who, despite their performances, slip through the cracks. Club sports, including bowling, lacrosse, hockey, and rugby, often do not receive attention proportional to the effort which the athletes put forth.

With this lack of emphasis and support for club sports, it is easy to see why some athletes feel they are not given proper respect. However, the difference in status for club sport athletes does not mean a difference in work ethic. Many of the athletes train and practice just as players in a sanctioned sport would. Overall, students on club sports teams can sometimes feel disrespected because they are cast as lesser athletes compared with those on sanctioned teams.

"I don't believe we are treated equally [compared to sanctioned sports]," bowling captain Riley Crandall (12) said. "We don't get any funds or support from the school. The school wouldn't even let us put posters up to spread the word about bowling."

"I think that [hockey players] don't get the respect we deserve," John Morrison (12) said. "We don't even get our scores run through the announcements like other sports."

A prime example of the lack of attention which club sports receive can be seen in Crandall's efforts for the bowling team earlier this year in Oct. and Nov. Over the course of three games of bowling, Crandall's combined score was 804, which corresponds to a 268 average per game. And yet, even after the performance earned Crandall the honor of having his scores posted in the Bowling Hall of Fame, little was made of the feat.

> *"We don't get any funds or support from the school. The school wouldn't even let us put posters up to spread the word about bowling."*
>
> **Riley Crandall**
> Bowler

"There wasn't an announcement or anything about it," Crandall said.

Besides the lack of coverage of many club sports, spectators at their competitions are often limited to family of the players. Students are rarely in attendance when club sport athletes compete.

"I have never gone to a club sport event," Phil Thompson (12) said. "I just don't care enough about those sports to go and watch."

"I honestly don't think we've had one student this year come to a match other than the girlfriend or boyfriend of a bowler," Crandall said.

"Most people tend to ignore us," Melissa Kuczmanski (12), a girls rugby player said. "Students don't think very highly of us. They just don't take us seriously."

Some students disagree with the view that they are not respected by students. For example, Keith Couture (12) feels the lacrosse team receives quite a bit of support from the student body.

"Though we're not recognized by the school and they don't give us funding," Couture said, "I still feel like we have support from the student body."

Many colleges and universities are beginning to offer club sports as regularly sanctioned sports. In fact, several schools are now offering scholarships in bowling, rugby, and lacrosse. Some of the popularity of these sports is due in part to Title IX mandates about the number of programs colleges must offer.

"It's starting to become a big thing at some schools," Kuczmanski said. "Schools are offering full and partial scholarships."

LIMITATIONS OF CLUB SPORTS

Only allowed to post one poster per sport

Cannot run announcements advertising the club sport

No school funding allocated to support club sports

GIRLS LACROSSE

Due to the success of the boys lacrosse team, it has been decided that a girls lacrosse team will be formed. The team will be coached by Emily Boosahda, who will also serve as coach of the Tri-State girls lacrosse team.

Tri-State's Division III girls lacrosse program will begin play in 2008. In the meantime, Boosahda will be recruiting for Tri-State and coaching Homestead's team.

Indoor practice will begin in February, and the team will begin working indoors three times a week sometime in March. Presently, there are only 14 girls lacrosse teams in the state. Homestead's team will most likely play a nine-game season, beginning in April. Homestead's team will be the first and only Fort Wayne-area team.

Any girl interested should contact Kent or Kim Brown at 459-7458.

Boys basketball hits a roadblock

Team has lost seven out of its last eight games, just 1-4 in NHC play

By Chris Ray
Writer

After a 5-2 start to the season, the varsity boys basketball team showed how well they were capable of playing. With victories over Wayne, Manchester, and Huntington North, and another two wins in the Columbia City Invitational over Heritage and Leo, the Spartans seemed to have some momentum. The hot streak did not hold up, however, as the Spartans have lost six of their last seven since, including a 54-51 OT loss to DeKalb on Jan. 26, a game in which they held a double-digit lead with four minutes remaining.

The roadblock began back on Jan. 5, a one-point 51-50 loss to Concordia; the loss was the first of four in a row. The next night, they lost a conference game to East Noble, 65-51. However, the toughest of the losses came Friday, Jan. 12, against conference rival Columbia City. After going up 12-0 in the first quarter, the Spartans struggled the rest of the game, eventually falling 45-41.

The fourth loss of the streak came versus tenth-ranked North Side, who dominated the Spartans throughout 91-60. David Osborn added 10 points off the bench.

"During the streak, the guys really struggled with shooting from the field and the free throw line. In addition, we had some guys who were sick and missed games for us," assistant coach Barak Coolman said.

The four-game losing streak had the Spartans at 5-6, with a tough conference game at Bellmont on Saturday, Jan. 20. With no wins in conference play, the Spartans came out firing, as they built an eight point lead by halftime, 25-17. The team did not let up in the second half and ended up winning the intense game by the score of 61-43. Kyle Leiendecker (12) led the team with 26 points. Logan Bultemeier (11) had 11 points, including a couple big three pointers, and Jacob Weide (11) had 13 points.

"During the streak, the guys really struggled with shooting from the field and the free throw line. In addition, we had some guys who were sick and missed games for us."

Barak Coolman
Assistant Coach

"The team bounced back well against Bellmont. We played great as a team, worked extremely hard, and [were] patient on offense," Coolman said.

"We need to play solid defense and continue to be patient on offense. These teams are tough, but if we do what we practice, I believe we have a good shot to win games," Coolman said.

On Jan. 26, the Spartans led by twelve in the closing minutes but couldn't hold the lead against DeKalb. They managed to force overtime, but a last-second desperation attempt to tie came up short.

SCORES
JAN. 26
HHS 51
DEKALB 54

JAN. 30
HHS 42
DWENGER 65

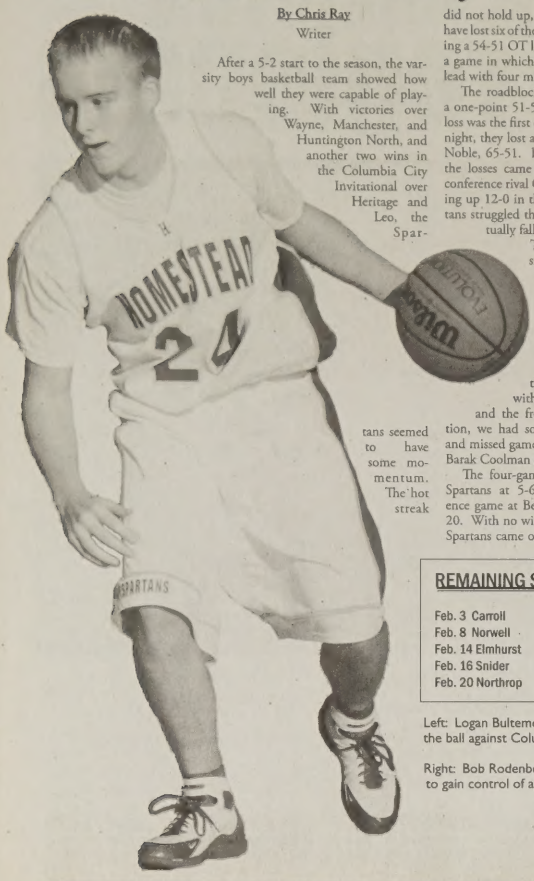
Before the game, it was announced that students could no longer stand on the gym floor after school officials deemed conduct at previous games too rowdy.

On Jan. 30, 10-2 Bishop Dwenger came to Homestead to take on the Spartans. After a solid start to the game, the Spartans were down by five points at the end of the first half. Bishop Dwenger stepped up its defense in the second half and hit numerous three pointers to put the Spartans away 65-42. Leiendecker led the team with 16 points and Weide added 10 points.

The road ahead for the Spartans fortunately does get slightly easier. The next three opponents for the Spartans have a combined 13-24 record. They will face a 2-11 New Haven team tomorrow night in New Haven before meeting a 7-5 Norwell team on Feb. 8.

REMAINING SCHEDULE

Feb. 3 Carroll	Away
Feb. 8 Norwell	Away
Feb. 14 Elmhurst	Home
Feb. 16 Snider	Home
Feb. 20 Northrop	Home



Left: Logan Bultemeier (11) dribbles the ball against Columbia City Jan. 12.

Right: Bob Rodenbeck (12) prepares to gain control of a rebound.

PHOTOS BY ZACH HETRICK

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soccer club travels to help at coaching convention

By Nick Arnold
Writer

To many young athletes, an idol is someone who is far removed from everyday life. Though they may constantly dream about someday meeting their idol in person, the majority will never interact with an athlete of such stature.

Yet, hopes and dreams become reality when an athlete finally comes face to face with their idol. Such was the case for a group of girls who play on a travel team at Fort Wayne Sports Club.

The team, composed of girls ages 16-17, was invited to participate in a skills and combination drills clinic at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's convention.

Held in at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis on Jan. 11, 2007, the convention featured premier youth soccer programs from around the country. Only three teams from Indiana were chosen to participate.

Soon after receiving the invitation, the team soon learned that their demonstration leader would be Brandi Chastain, the US Olympic Gold Medalist. Chastain is widely remembered for her celebration after scoring the game-winning goal at the 1999 Women's World cup, where she tore off her shirt in the middle of the field to expose her Nike sports bra. That single-image was headlined in sports publications throughout the globe, and eventually signed a lucrative contract with Nike.

Though the most of the general public might struggle to recall Chastain's name, the girls on the travel team knew exactly who she was. Even more, many had idolized her growing up.

"Brandi had always been my idol growing up. Her poster is on my wall and my first jersey was the same as Brandi's, number 6."

Kate Beinz (10)
Soccer club member

"Brandi had always been my idol growing up," Kate Bienz (10) said. "Her poster is on my wall and my first jersey was the same as Brandi's, number 6."

As would be expected, the girls were ecstatic when they found out Chastain would be leading their team through the clinic.

Chastain led the team through various demonstrations that were conducted for aspiring coaches. Prior to the demonstrations, she met with the team and briefed them about what they would need to perform.

"It was neat to be able to talk and interact with her one-on-one," Allisun Buck (11) said.

While some star athletes can be disappointing to meet in person, the girls felt very comfortable with Chastain.

"Talking to her was like talking to a friend, she was very down to earth," Bienz said. "She came off as a very friendly person."

The opportunity to meet Chastain was not without sacrifice for the girls, who began traveling throughout the Midwest immediately following the high school season.

"We never really have a break between the travel team and the high school season," Buck said. "It really is a full time commitment."

Most of the girls on the team have been playing together since age eight and under the same coach. Though some might see such a commitment as a burden, many of the girls embrace it.

"Even though it is really intense, it definitely is very rewarding at the same time," Bienz said, "The friendships formed among us are awesome."

Season of struggle

Despite injuries, gymnastics fights on

By Laura Summers
Writer

SCORES FROM 1.29
HOMESTEAD 89.375, WAYNE 81.35, CANTERBURY 29.1

The varsity gymnastics team has gotten off to quite an impressive start this season, especially considering the injuries they have dealt with early. The team has already been doing much better than they did last year. The only individual team they have lost to so far has been Snider. They have beaten Elmhurst, Warsaw, East Noble, DeKalb, and Wayne.

A typical gymnastics meet consists of four different events: the floor exercise, the balance beam, the vault, and the uneven bars. Each individual can score a maximum of ten points on each event. Aside from invitationals, first through fourth place are recognized for each specific event. Also, the all-around award is given to the girl who has the highest score for all the combined events at every meet. The girls have scored in the 80's and 90's so far this season, out of a possible 120.

"We've been doing pretty well so far this year," Grace Lundergan (12), a varsity gymnastics member, said, "I'm really excited about this season since it's my last. I really want us to do our best."

On Saturday, Jan. 20, the girls competed in the Concordia Classic. However, they did not do as well as they had hoped. They ended up finishing eleventh out of a possible twelve teams competing.

"We've had a lot of injuries early on in the season, so that has sometimes hurt us. Kristin Chenoweth (11), got hurt [in a Saturday meet] so she's going to be out for a while, but I think we're still going to be able to succeed," Lundergan said.

Along with Chenoweth's injury, the team has dealt with numerous other minor injuries. Other strong members of the varsity team include Emma Duvall (11), Ashley Hockney (11) and Dana Droes (12). Lundergan won the balance beam event in the meet against Warsaw on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The girls won that meet 89.9-86.45. The girls had a meet against Northrop on Jan. 22 that they lost. Their past two dual meets against DeKalb and Wayne were won. At the Chesterton Invitational, the girls managed to beat three competing teams.

The team's coach, Ericka McEvoy, has been battling breast cancer. However, she is almost done with chemotherapy and is doing okay. The girls acknowledge her illness with a pink ribbon on the sleeve of their team sweatshirts and still would like to raise money for breast cancer. Lundergan has an optimistic opinion about the remainder of their season.

"I think that we are really going to do well for this entire season. We've all been working really hard to get the results that we want. We're aiming to score in the 90's consistently so we can continue to improve our skills," Lundergan said.

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Swim teams continue dominance, girls sectional finals tomorrow

By Kalyn Jorgensen and Joe Salisbury
Writers

Girls' sectional prelims held yesterday, finals tomorrow

The girls swimming team has been practicing relentlessly, at times over 20 hours a week, and has continued to post an unblemished record. Sectional prelims were held yesterday, with the finals taking place tomorrow.

"We are proud of our accomplishments this season but we don't let it get to our heads. We train harder and longer than any other sport and obviously our work has paid off," Kristen Kinzer (10) said.

One of the top swimmers this season is Jessica Skiba (12). Skiba is seated first in the state for the 500 freestyle and has many goals yet to accomplish. At state last year, Skiba did not place as well as she had hoped in the 500. She ended up fourth and gave up mentally on the race. With a current time of 4:58.1, Skiba is confident that she can go faster. Her goal for the year is to break a 4:50 in the race. Going into state this year, Skiba hopes to do well.

Skiba devotes the majority of her time to swimming. Not only does she swim for Homestead but she also swims for club. During club, her favorite swim is the 400 IM, but for Homestead she is limited to the 200 IM and 500 freestyle.

"I love the 400 IM because it is a race of pure endurance and how much pain you can take. It tests all the strokes and you pretty much have to sprint a distant event. I love the challenge," Skiba said.

With her high school career coming to an end, Skiba has not decided whether to swim in college or not, though she understands she is there to get an education above all other things.

"I want to continue swimming, but I have to keep in mind that I'm not going to school to swim. I'm going there to receive an education, and swimming will be a part of my whole college experience," Skiba said.

Skiba has not been offered any scholarship money thus far. Though she is not completely sure on where she would like to attend, her top choice is Notre Dame. She has also applied to Northwestern, Loyola, and Purdue. The girls team has many top swimmers who contribute to the success of their season.

"I wouldn't say I'm the top swimmer because our team focuses on betterment of the entire team, not the individual. So many girls have such big hearts and are focused on others that they sacrifice their time and efforts for the team," Skiba said.

Due to all of the time and effort the girls spend together, they have become extremely close.

"All of us are so close that we have become like family. At the team dinners we stay for hours talking, eating, and dancing," Kinzer said.

The girls team has many traditions that take place. Beginning on Halloween until state, which is in mid February, the team doesn't shave their legs. Once it is time to shave, they have a huge shaving party. For sectionals, the girls dyed the tips of their hair bright pink.

Tomorrow, the sectional finals will mark the first stepping stone to the team's run to state. Regionals will take place Feb. 6 and state will be in Indianapolis on Feb. 9 and 10.

Loss to defending champ North Central boys' only blemish

After dominating the swimming stage in the area, the boys swim team is hoping to continue its success throughout the rest of the regular season and into the postseason. Even with a difficult schedule that features many teams around the state, the guys are still on track to make another trip back to the state finals. As they competed in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) meet, the team further showed their dominance. After a day of swimming, the team came out with yet another conference championship and many first team all-conference honors. All but two spots on the first team were filled by Spartans. Ryan Dafforn (12), Zach Johnson (11), Kyle Frebel (11), Adam Lill (12), Mack O'Shaughnessy (12), Anderson Whipp (10), Kurt Hansbarger (12), Aaron Rittenhouse (11), Peter Rondot (10), Rob Titcomb (12), and Nick Jones (10) all took home all-conference honors.

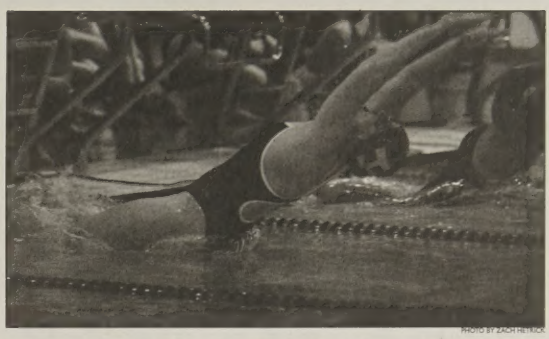


PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Heather Moore (12) begins the backstroke during a recent girls swimming meet.

On Jan. 19, the team competed in the Fishers College Events Classic. In a very competitive field, the guys came out on top to win the invitational. This meet was slightly different than other meets because they featured distance events. This helped the team measure their progress and how they were performing. Dafforn won the 200 Individual Medley and the 200 Butterfly. Johnson won the 100 and 200 Backstroke and the 100 butterfly. Rittenhouse won the 100 Breaststroke. and the 200 Freestyle Relay team of Lill, Evans, Frebel, and Whipp also won.

The next day the team faced second-ranked North Central. This was another important meet because the team was trying to prepare and simulate the state meet at the end of the season. The team participated in the Fishers Classic the day before, and the next day they faced the Panthers. This two-day meet is similar to the two day state finals meet. In a tough meet, the team fell by a score of 99-87. Dafforn again won the 100 Butterfly and the 200 Individual Medley. The 200 Freestyle Relay also won. Overall, the team thought they performed well but needed to focus on finishing the races better. They had many close finishes which could have lifted the team to a victory if some of the could have pulled out a win.

PLACES AT CARMEL

GIRLS: 2ND
BOYS: 1ST

A major part of the team's success this year has been the upperclassmen leading the team and providing a good example for the younger swimmers. The juniors and seniors know that they have a lot of talent and depth among the group and are focused on making the season successful.

"From now until sectionals and state, we need to focus on finishing our meets," Dafforn said. "We need to step up our endurance and that will allow us to get an extra point or two which could make all the difference in some of the meets in the post season. Our mental toughness will come through in the late stages of the season and will be one of the main parts determining how we finish at state."

Girls basketball on winning streak

Team could finish with a winning record with wins in last few games

By Kara Busse
Writer

At one point, not that many years ago, the girls basketball team was seen as being one of the best teams in the NHC conference. However, this season the girls have faced several setbacks, stumbling to an 8-9 start. The team has showed progress, however, winning four or its last five games.

The girls feel they have the depth to succeed and that their mistakes are fixable for the most part.

"We definitely have the talent on the team," Stephanie Lineback (11) said. "Sometimes though, we get down on ourselves way too much and become our own worst player."

Lineback isn't the only player that feels this way. The team is knowledgeable of the fact they have the talent to become one of the better teams in conference. They're also aware they need to play with better skill and attitude to get to that point.

"All aspects of basketball are equally important, but we need to work on communication the most," Lineback said. "It's very important for the leaders of the team to get across what needs to be done to win the game."

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Members of the girls basketball team talk during a recent home game. The team is riding its best streak of the season.

On Jan. 13 at Columbia City, the girls suffered a particularly difficult loss. The game went into double overtime and the team knew it could be either team's game to win.

> *"All aspects of basketball are equally important, but [the team] needs to work on communication the most."*
>
> **Stephanie Lineback**
> Varsity Basketball Player

The Lady Spartans fought to stay in it, but a last-second desperation attempt to tie fell short, as the girls lost 63-60.

"The team lacked desire at first, but this is the second half of the season and we've stepped it up," Rachel Kruse (10) said.

The girls admit to being frustrated with themselves and others on the team but always seem to gather up enough confidence to encourage their fellow players and themselves. The ladies have noticed it helps.

"It seems to work most of the time," Kruse said.

The players contribute their recent streak to hard work in practice. The girls have found that they are enjoying the experience more when they win.

"Since we were on a losing streak we gained the motivation to do better in practice which has helped all of us, on and off the court," Lineback said.

The girls went into their Jan. 16 game with Wayne riding their best streak of the year and the new-found confidence showed. The Lady Spartans dispatched the Lady Generals 78-39.

With recent wins against Snider, East Noble, Wayne and Bellmont, the Lady Spartans have high hopes to see the season continue the current positive run the rest of their conference games.

These high hopes became reality again with the team's game against DeKalb. With a game score of 67-42, the girls kept their long winning streak going.

The Lady Spartans kept confidence that the rest of the conference games will have the same result as the ones in the past.

The girls basketball team also played Northrop at home on Jan. 31, but due to deadline we were not able to provide an overview of the game.

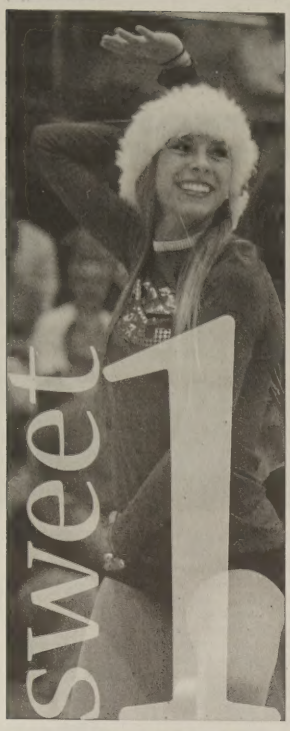
The last game before sectionals is against at Leo Feb. 2.

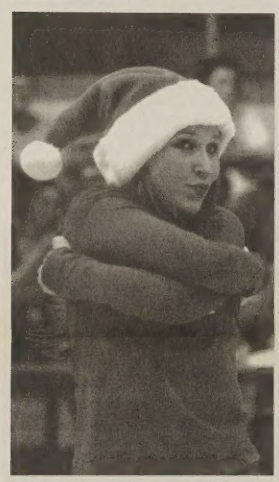
It would be a nice surprise for the girls and spectators for the team to finish out the season with more wins than losses.

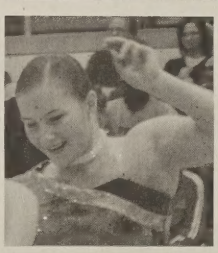
It is possible the team could finish 11-9 with wins in their last few games before sectionals, but tough opponents stand in their way. If they can maintain their momentum, they hope to be able to make a splash in the sectional tournament.

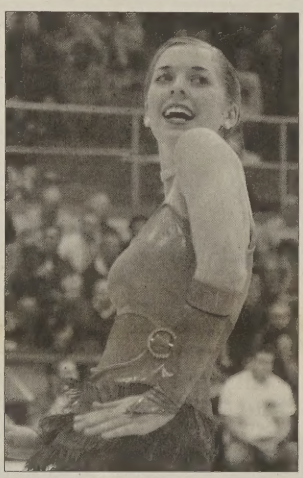
sweet 16

faces of the dance team



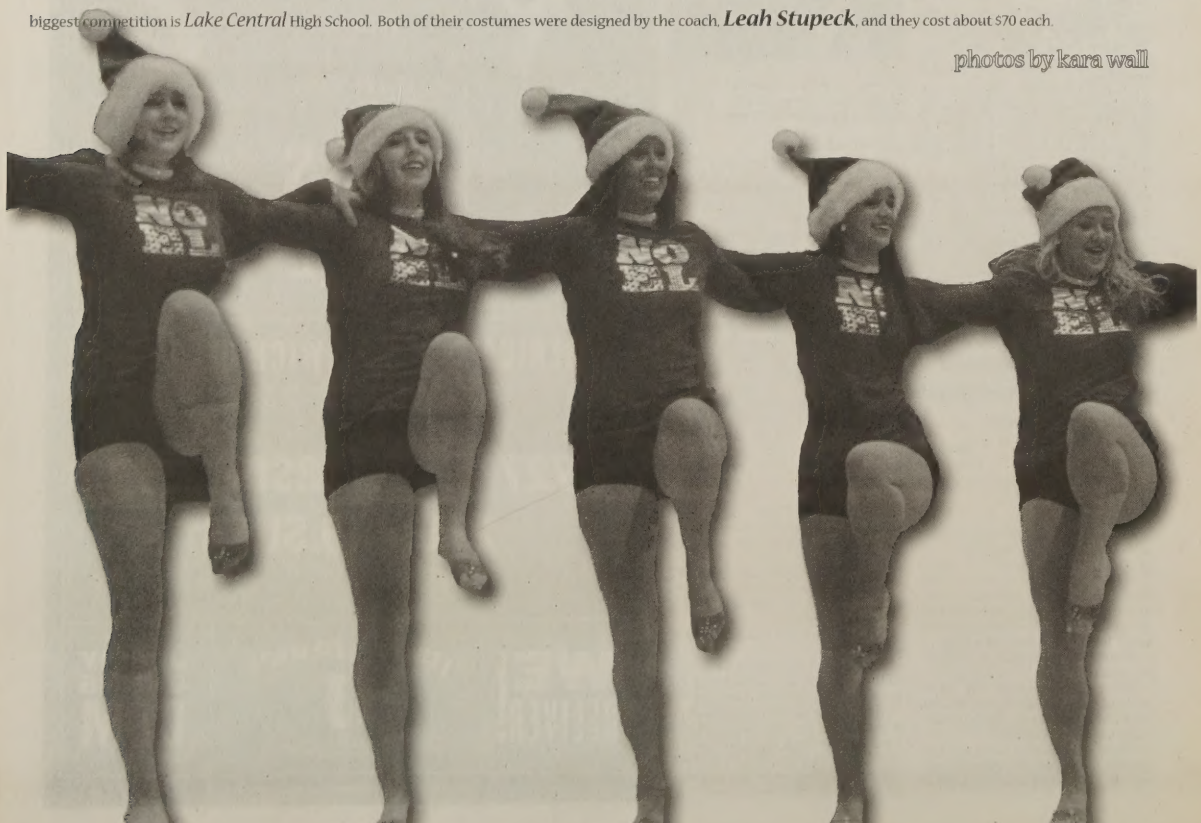






Little-known facts about the dance team: During practice they have a strict dress code and all have to all wear the same black top and shorts. Before competitions, they send *sportsmanship cards* to the local dance teams to wish them good luck. Each girl wears approximately 600 rhinestones for each performance on their costumes, shoes, eyes, jewelry and hair. They wear special "blinged out undeez" (dance shoes with rhinestones) for competitions. On the bus rides to the competitions, they are not allowed to talk because the time is used for sleeping and getting ready for performances. Their biggest competition is *Lake Central* High School. Both of their costumes were designed by the coach, ***Leah Stupeck***, and they cost about $70 each.

photos by kara wall



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variety
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audition form

Variety *2007* will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2007. The announcement on Thursday referred to the drama department's involvement in the event...IT'S ON. This years's show will be hosted through a joint effort of the Spartana staff, former performers, and Student Government. Half of the proceeds will be donated to charity. We are encouraging a variety of acts. Anyone is welcome to audition. Auditions will be held after school on February 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. If your act is a band, submit your demo tape to the audition committee on February 21st. Listen for details on the morning announcements.

Act title and description:

Members in act and contact information: (designate one "contact person" and provide their phone number)

Preferred audition date (circle one): Feb. 21 Feb. 22 Feb. 23

Turn in this form to the back room, student services, or the front office by

February 14th

We will contact you shortly with your audition date and time.

issue 9 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

Friday, February 23, 2007

SKIBA WINS STATE

Senior takes first in 500 freestyle, team finishes fourth in state

It's been eight years since a swimmer wearing the blue and gold of Homestead touched first at a state meet. With a time of 4:59.86 in the 500 free-style, however, senior Jessica Skiba did just that.

As she began her final lap, Skiba was not thinking about records or streaks--she was busy holding off Alexandra Young of Carmel High School. Top-seeded Young and fifth-seeded Skiba raced for the wall, stroke for stroke, as a crowd of supporters screamed and leapt. Young finished .73 seconds after Skiba.

FOR MORE

Page 1B: Full story and stats for Skiba and the team's races

Page 4B: Girls state swimming moments in photographs

Finished, Skiba glanced at the screen above the natatorium; she saw that she had won. Her teammates rushed the deck, and the celebration began. For Skiba, seeded fifth heading into the finals, that moment was unlike anything she had ever felt before.

"I've been thinking about that race for four years now and even before that," Skiba said. "I've always wanted to win it. It felt incredible, and to have my friends and family here, it was amazing."

PHOTO: ZACH METRICK

TEAM STATE SCORES

1. Carmel	335
2. Hamilton Southeastern	280.5
3. Columbus North	185
4. Homestead	173
5. North Central	127.5
6. Center Grove	126
7. Yorktown	114
8. Chesterton	109

Software receives mostly good grades

By Karolina Heyduk and Puja Parikh
Life Editor and News Editor

PowerSchool's opening run this semester marks the third grading software teachers will use in as many years. Now in its second month as the district's Student Information System (SIS), teachers and students are once again acclimating to a new program. As usual, reactions are mixed.

"I think it's a good thing for students and parents to keep track of their grades," Spanish teacher Angela Bailey said. "I'm all for students having to be more responsible about the education process."

"[PowerSchool] makes it easier for teachers...with Centerpoint [you] could only put scores in alphabetical order," social studies teacher Sue Summers said. "In PowerSchool you can use the arrows to scroll up and down, more of a timesaver than anything. It's probably easier for a teacher to use than Centerpoint and very similar to old programs we've had."

IN-DEPTH

PowerSchool and Centerpoint are each owned by the same company, Pearson Educational Systems. Powerschool was purchased from Apple after Centerpoint failed expectations last year. Initially begun in 1997, PowerSchool is used by over 7,800 schools and 3,000,000 students.

"It didn't work for me today," Henry Shine (12) said. "I tried to type in my dad's username and password and then got an invalid password message. When I clicked enter the password bar filled up with a bunch of dots and wouldn't let me enter...to me it's a hassle."

"I'd say it's about the same [as Centerpoint]," Rick Dent (12) said.

Some teachers have complained that the software is incapable of adapting to particular grading scales for individual classes. Other complaints include students' percentages being thrown off. Last week one student's grade read 19/50 points, and the corresponding letter grade was an A-. An

See PowerSchool on page 2A

BRIEFS

VARIETY SHOW PROGRESS

Hosted by the Spartana and Student Government, the annual variety show will take place on March 15. Auditions were held this week for a panel of teacher-judges. This year's show marks the 25th anniversary for the show. Tickets will be $5.

SENIORS PETITION AGAINST FINALS

The senior class has set up a petition that would exempt certain seniors from taking second semester finals. To be exempt students must have a B+ average in the class. Kara Wall (12) is in charge of this petition and says that she is willing to compromise on the grade average with administrators. The petition is circulating through the senior class and picking up signatures. Wall plans to take the petition to the administration and Principal Dianne Moake

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: Banned books
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial: Positively Speaking about YouTube
PAGE 4A, Life: Chalk one up for chocolate; an examination of the tasty treat
PAGE 5A, Life: Farnsworth discusses her 'Winter of my discontent'
PAGE 6A, Life: Education gets high tech
PAGE 7A, Life: 'Norbit' takes a massive nose dive; review by Dillon Kimmel
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: Students show off their snow day pictures
PAGE 1B, Sports: Girls swimming ctd.
PAGE 2B, Sports: Boys swimming prepares
PAGE 3B, Sports: Intramural basketball provides competitive alternative
PAGE 4B, Sports: Photos of girls swimming

Dance Marathon starts tonight

Athletic fund raiser celebrates its 25th anniversary

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

It's the school's largest fund raiser, a place to eat tons of free food from local restaurants and the only place where students can stay up twenty-four-hours straight dancing with friends: dance marathon is back again for its 25th anniversary.

DANCE MARATHON FACTS

24 hours of dancing
$350 raised by each couple
60 teams and 800 athletes supported

Dance Marathon is hosted annually in the gym. Students team up with a friend and must raise $350 to participate. Funds go toward the Athletic Booster's Club. This money supports over 60 teams, and about 800 athletes. It pays for all of the patches, letters, uniforms, and equipment given to athletes.

"All the money is raised by students..it's the kids out there getting the funds," substitute teacher and event organizer Ann Matheis said. "These are hard-working, fun kids. It's the cream of the crop that would go out door to door and raise $350 to stay up all night and dance; it really speaks highly of these kids."

The night begins with an all school dance—anyone is welcome to join. At midnight, however, those who aren't participating in the fund raiser

See Dance Marathon on page 2A

BANNED BOOKS

See feature on banned books on page 2A. The banning of The Perks of Being a Wallflower from the media center and school curriculum leads to an examination of the banned books policy. Director of Media Cheryl Shinabarger and Media Specialist Linda Furman share their comments.

'Crazy for you' approved for spring musical

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

After narrowing down the musical choices to two a few weeks ago, Drama Department Head Jennifer Fisher has announced this spring's performance will be "Crazy for You," a comedy that tells the story of Bobby Childs, a member of a wealthy New York banking family and talented song and dance man. Bobby is sent by his mother to Deadrock, Nevada to foreclose on the run-down Gaiety Theater.

SHOW DETAILS

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, 1992

Revival of a 1930's Ira and George Gershwin musical

Mixed cast of around 30

Auditions Feb. 26
Callbacks Feb. 27

Performs May 4, 5, 11, 12

Once there, he falls in love with a theater owner's daughter, who is oddly the only woman in the town. Soon, he too develops an affinity for the theater he's been sent to close down and becomes involved in an elaborate scheme to save it by putting on a magnificent show.

"It has good music," Fisher said. That's one of the reasons I chose it; it has very good songs. It can really showcase the talent of the singers we have here."

See Musical on page 2A

POETRY OUT LOUD

School's winners move to regionals in first annual Poetry Out Loud

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

Robert Frost, a well-known poet, once said, "Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought, and the thought has found words." For students who participated in the school's first Poetry Out Loud competition, the art of poetry was much more than that.

Yesterday, school contest winners Greg Kyes Myland (11) and Emma Farnsworth (12) participated at the regional competition at Plymouth High School.

Kyes-Myland will perform "Song of the Powers" by David Mason and "Annabele Lee" by Edgar Allen Poe. Farnsworth will recite "Fever 103 degrees" by Sylvia Plath and "Litany" by Billy Collins.

POETRY OUT LOUD

First place state winners will receive an expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. The national winner will receive a scholarship worth $20,000.

"I'd love to be able to make it to state," Kyes Myland said. "I'm really looking forward to going down and being with people who are passionate performers. I think it's going to be a lot more competitive [at regionals or state] and that will make things exciting."

Participating students memorized and then recited two poems of their choice for a panel of judges last Thursday. Thirty-nine students signed up to perform. Each poem was chosen from an anthology of selected poems recognized by the national Poetry Out Loud organization.

"Mr. Hill really got our class into reading poetry," Sarah Starnes (11) said. "I like presenting it and conveying the meaning to

See Poetry on page 2A

Banned book policy under scrutiny

'Wallflower' on the banned list, off the shelves-library reviews policy every two years

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky is a story written in a series of letters by Charlie, a young boy who records his experiences in the teenage world. Charlie describes incidents of teenage sexuality and homosexuality, abortion, drug abuse, and child sexual abuse--events that many of Homestead's youth also experience.

Yet, the accounts Charlie recorded are not available for student viewing in the Southwest Allen County School (SACS) district. Instead, this book was pulled off the shelves two years ago when a parent contested the decision of a teacher to include the book as part of a class assignment.

According to Cheryl Shinabarger, who is serving her sixth year as the Director of Media for SACS, a teacher wanted to use The Perks of Being a Wallflower as an assigned reading book for her class. A parent contested this issue, and as a result, the book was pulled of the shelves in the media center and placed on the banned books list. The Perks of Being a Wallflower is the only book currently on the banned books list for Homestead.

"When deciding what books to include in the media center or add to a classroom, we [the administration] are looking for not only good literature, but a variety of literature," Shinabarger said. "We don't want to close any opportunities or any doors. We try not to be policeman, yet, at the same time, we are very conscious of our community's morals and values."

The banned books policy is reviewed roughly every two years and usually whenever a complaint is raised. There are two separate policies, one for literature that is read in class where all students are required to read the book, and another policy for books that are in the school media center.

"In the school library, because students check out materials by choice, we are broader in our policy," Shinabarger said.

SACS has installed a five-step complaint procedure for any parent or member of the community who wishes to challenge the merit of a book that is included in either the school curriculum or media center. Once a complaint form is filled out, a committee, composed of school media specialists, two to four randomly chosen parents, Shinabarger, and a school administrator, read the book.

"We all read the book individually, apart from one another, so we can formulate our own opinions," Shinabarger said. "After reading the book, we get together and go through the complaint verbatim and respond to it. We then make a recommendation and that recommendation is simply to keep the book on the shelf or remove it from the shelf. We try to keep an open mind about what the author intended to say."

Shinabarger must also review the Challenged and Banned Books List complied by the American Library Association. However, almost all of the books on the list are available in district libraries.

"My role as the director of media is to make sure media specialists have the resources they need and the flexibility--the latitude and longitude--to put books on the shelf and take them out. There are definitely guidelines that we follow. The goal is never to inhibit a student from exposure to a variety of literature, rather, focus on what the curriculum requires."

In area middle schools, graphic novels have come under fire from parents who view many of the illustrations as portraying females in a voluptuous and inappropriate manner. Several graphic novels have been pulled off the shelves in middle schools due to repeated complaints by parents.

"We want the media center to be a place where students are comfortable...and enjoy the environment. But in elementary and middle schools, certain materials must be deemed inappropriate for children. At the high school level, students are much more mature."

Shinabarger is also the district coordinator for a ten-county area in Northeast Indiana. "Whenever we meet as a district, we bring our policies and share them," Shinabarger said. "This ensures a good collaborative effort. As a district, our policy is quite looser. We have nothing to hide. We are willing to listen to everything."

Yet, despite the loose restrictions that are in place for challenged and banned books at SACS, The Perks of Being a Wallflower remains off the shelves at Homestead Highs School. Media specialist Linda Furman agrees that the book shouldn't be part of the curriculum, but feels that it still belongs in the library.

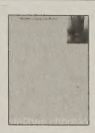
"The book should be returned to the IMC," Furman said. "If a parent objects, that student shouldn't have checked it out. I will not object to a book a student checks out, that is their choice. Sometimes, a parent only reads two or three paragraphs and we can usually show them that there is nothing wrong with the merits of the whole book. For The Perks of Being a Wallflower, that did not happen."

CONTESTED BOOKS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

The Chocolate War
by R. Cormier

The Giver
by L. Lowry

The Catcher in the Rye
by J.D. Salinger


The Perks of Being a Wallflower
by S. Chbosky

The Harry Potter Series
by J.K Rowling

PowerSchool, continued from page 1A

other student's grade was, for a time, a 93%… and a C+. Kinks are obviously still being worked out.

PowerSchool was first tested this semester in the district when teachers began to use the program to record attendance and grades following winter break. Teachers were trained prior to returning from break.

"By the end of [training], we knew how to take attendance and how to take a class list," Bailey said. "But really we're still trying to figure out the best way to do it."

According to Counselor Tom Quigley, the program's installation (the turnover from Centerpoint to the new project) went well. Scheduling for next year, however, may not go as smoothly.

"Most of the information transfer went real well and we are pleased," Quigley said. "The only shortcoming is that we ([Principal Steve] Lake and I,) were hoping that this year we would not have to do a lot of the individual course entries... just roll it over. Good news is that for each succeeding year we should be able to roll over most of the previous year info and just make minor adjustments."

2007-2008 scheduling (a massive annual project for counselors and administrators) is already started in PowerSchool.

"We are already underway with the first phases of scheduling," Quigley said. "[Principal] Lake has entered all courses that are available for next year and counselors (middle school and high school) are meeting with students and they are making their course selections now. Counselors are entering these course selections into the data base so that in March we can start on a "master schedule" for next year."

For administrators and teachers potential remains unknown. PowerSchool's web site touts the program as being a "powerful community communication" tool, capable of generating parental involvement into students' academics. PowerSchool is also advertised as being deep in features, including IPod integrated software.

"Final verdict is still out, but I'm still happy with the ease of use with PowerSchool," Counselor Tom Quigley said. "A strong positive is that there are many schools in our area who are PowerSchool users, so we should be able to consult with our education colleagues when needed."

Dance Marathon, continued from page 1A

have to leave.

"My sons still says it's the best eating he's ever done in a 24 hour period," Matheis said. "About every restaurant in town contributes; the big ones are Outback, Applebee's, Pizza Hut, Carlos O'Kelly's and Casa's."

In the past, participants help themselves to food donated by local restaurants and sit down to watch the midnight madness basketball tournament. This year, however, the basketball tournament was replaced by dodge ball.

"The interest was dwindling [in basketball]," Matheis said. "For 25th anniversary we wanted to do something different. We decided that dodge ball might get more interest, and it certainly did. Last year we had about five or six teams sign up, compared with this year's fifteen or sixteen."

Following the game, students will continue to dance into the night, grooving to Heartbreaker's live DJ. Music played varies: classic rock, swing, new age, alternative, rap, R&B, hip-hop and everything in between.

"I just love Dance Marathon," Francesca Schmidt (11) said. "The food is amazing, all your friends are with you and the next day you play games most of the time. ...If you put a little effort into it, it's really not that hard to raise the money."

In the past, the fund raiser has collected over $31,000, but each year organizers hope to improve on that number. This year's number appears to be higher than any previous year's total has been.

"Every year it's our hope that we can better than the year before," Matheis said. "Last year we had 72 teams raise the money and that was our biggest group yet."

Marked by fun games such as Ships and Sailors, Mingle Mingle, and Monkey On My Back, Dance Marathon continues on into the next day with fun activities and free prizes.

"The whole next day there are a bunch of gift certificates given out," Schmidt said. "Last year I won $20 for Spoons."

The fund raiser marks it's 25th anniversary this year and it continues to draw people back year after year.

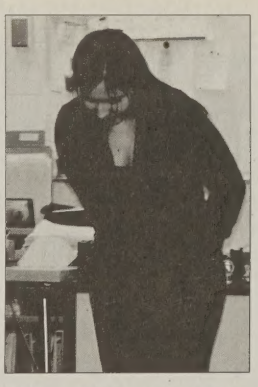
"I plan on doing it next year too," Schmidt said. "If you participate all four year you get a blanket."

"All of my kids say it's the best thing they ever did at Homestead," Matheis said. "That's why I keep doing it…I want [other kids] to look back and have good memories of helping other kids."

"When you memorize a poem you establish a more intimate relationship with the poem...."

Scott Hill
English Teacher

Poetry, continued from page 1A


Kristina Vragovic (11) bows at the end of reciting her two poems.

someone else."

This is the first year the school has participated in Poetry Out Loud and the second year the competition has been held nationwide. Two finalists were chosen by the judges to move on to semi-state at Plymouth High School on Feb. 22. If successful there, the students will then move on to the state competition in Indianapolis. The winner at the state competition moves on to an expenses-paid national competition in Washington D.C. Once there, participants have a shot at $20,000.

English teacher Scott Hill sponsored and ran the poetry reading. He found out about the competition in a poetry journal. Hill was immediately intrigued by the idea of a contest in which students recite poetry.

"When you memorize a poem you establish a more intimate relationship with the poem than when you read one or two and try to figure out the 'meaning' of it... the poem can become a part of you," Hill said.

While the typical high school English class may try to over-dissect the same famous poems, such as 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost, Hill thinks that reciting poetry is different.

"When we go over poetry in class you try to explain the meaning of it, but reading it out loud is just pure enjoyment," Hill said.

The competition has attracted some unexpected participants.

"I'm pleased to say that participation has exceeded my expectations… all kinds of kids have been attracted to [this competition]," Hill said.

The panel of local English teachers, former teachers, and others critiqued students based on posture, articulation, dramatization, the difficulty of the poem, understanding of the poem, and the overall performance. Students were also penalized if their poems were not memorized properly.

"Both poems need to be memorized and during the performance the judges looked for things like voice fluctuation, emotion, stance and poem comprehension," Dheevena Reddy (10) said.

The Poetry Out Loud organization has been expanded upon by The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, partnered with State Arts Agencies. These organizations hope to raise nationwide interest in poetry among students.

"This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage," according to the National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation.

"I'm sure that the students in this competition will be getting a very good experience out of it and more students should be involved in poetry," Reddy said.

Musical, continued from page 1A

It also has a decent-sized cast, which was important because I want to give a lot more people the opportunity to be involved in theater," Fisher said.

The show can have anywhere between 20-35 parts, depending on the number of smaller roles Fisher decides to include.

Fisher said she eventually narrowed her choices down to "Crazy for You" and "Anything Goes," and her choosing the former was due in large part to issues with set building. Because of numerous other events that require auditorium use during the spring, Fisher said she would not be able to put a permanent set in place until after April 19, only two weeks before opening night. She did not feel that was enough time, so she decided to go with a musical with a removable set.

"This set is a lot easier set to construct [than the other show I was considering], and everything moves off and on stage. I hate to say that was an issue...but set building was an issue that I had to look at," Fisher said.

Fisher will direct her first musical since taking over the Drama Head position at the beginning of this year, replacing long-time director Ed Koczergo. She said her lack of experience is both a good and bad thing, saying she can't play favorites if she doesn't know what voices she has.

She did, however, say she has learned a great deal since taking over the position and expects a great show.

"I have learned so much. I have a lot of the little things out of the way...I feel like there are more kids that are into singing...so from them I've had higher expectations for higher turnout at tryouts. There's more buzz for this. I'm hoping to see a lot of new faces. I'm excited to meet some new kids through this," Fisher said.

The musical has received a mixed reaction from the students who have been a part of past plays.

"I'm excited to see what Ms. Fisher can bring to the department. I know she has a lot of talent," Meg Warner (12) said.

In the past, Koczergo would hold information sessions and provide musical scores and CDs to the interested students prior to tryouts. This gave students the opportunity to learn about the show in advance and also try out for specific parts in which they were not interested. However, this year the students say they have not been given this opportunity.

"We need to have a little guidance on what we will be doing. Mr. K was very organized, and we were used to that. We don't know what is going to happen [at auditions]," Warner said.

Mike Peck (12) voiced his overall displeasure as well.

"I'm very disappointed by Ms. Fisher's attempts to put on a musical and keep kids informed," Peck said.

Both Phil Thompson (12) and Peck said they are undecided on whether they will try out. They have both been a part of the theater department for four years.

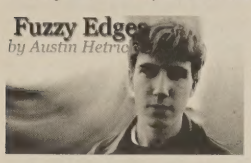
Tryouts will take place Monday of next week, with callbacks the following day. Auditions are open to students of all grade levels. Performances of "Crazy for You" are on May 4 and 5 and May 11 and 12.

Opinion

Memories of moving

My family moved last week. Or rather, my friend Jordan and I moved my family last week. We packed up the unbelievable amount of stuff that filled our house—an ancient weight set covered in dust, a Disney movie collection long relegated to the basement, cabinets, clothing, boxes, food, dishes, chords, light bulbs—picked all of it up, stuck it on a Budget rental truck till the sucker was full, and drove to a new, smaller, house. Repeat four times.

It struck me while loading how much my life is shaped around items. Whether it's the computer I'm typing on, the books on my shelf, or the crap I haven't seen in years, all that stuff



takes up space in my memory—almost as much as it does in our overstuffed garage.

Yet, for all that junk, it's striking how little space we truly take up. Four truckloads—and of that maybe half a load was my stuff. A few hundred pounds at most. A fire, or flood, or tornado and all of my stuff, every memory, could be gone. A wrong turn on the wheel of the Budget truck on the icy roadway and it would all end up along the roadside, snow-covered, to be picked up like all those New Orlean's residents did last year, or the Florida homemakers perennially do.

As I emptied my house it was as if all of the untouched memories of 18 years were refreshed again, one at a time, and I was reminded how much all of that junk can mean to me. Without getting too nostalgic, suffice it to say that moving was like flipping through a book whose pages you've known by heart, but fell behind the bookcase with the gum wrappers and relative's birthday cards.

Moving brought other revelations. For the first time in almost a decade, my brother and I are sharing a room. As little kids it was comforting to be in the same room with your brother because that way if anyone were to attack in the night, one of us would be able to raise the alarm. It was a security blanket. At 18, however, sharing a room with one's twin is less fun. I work late, he sleeps early. The bunk beds are not as big as they once were. Our new room is half the size of the one we shared.

I'll try not to beat the same drum over again…but in six months all of this will have to be moved again. It's likely that most of my junk will be left behind, stuffed in a basement, or attic, left there to rot for the college years…or longer. It is junk after all…it wouldn't bring much even on EBay. For the briefest of moments, however, all of it mattered again.

Marketing campaign goes awry in Boston

By Phil Aleman
Writer

Early on the morning of January 31, an individual noticed an unusual device situated above Sullivan Station, a stop on Boston's rapid transit system. A police officer was quickly notified, and the Boston Police Bomb squad arrived. But they didn't come alone. Ambulances, fire trucks, and police cruisers accompanied the bomb squad's landing. Soon afterwards, another, similar apparatus was spotted near I-93. The interstate was closed down and the device was destroyed while law enforcement officials investigated the scene. Calls poured in as more devices with similar descriptions were spotted throughout the city; bridges and other spots throughout Boston were subsequently shut down. Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakly stated that each device "had a very sinister appearance. It had a battery behind it, and wires."

When everything was done and through, it was finally revealed that the devices in question were not explosives. Turner Broadcasting System had lost 2 million dollars in fees to Boston and Homeland Security, and James Samples, head of subsidiary Cartoon Network for 13 years, was out of job. How did all this happen?

The bomb scare was the result of a guerilla advertising campaign gone awry. Adult Swim, a subsidiary of Turner Broadcasting System and 'sister' to Cartoon Network, hired Interference, Inc. to promote hype and awareness for its upcoming movie, Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters. The oddly titled flick is set for release on April 13 of this year, and follows the exploits of the main cast and new characters from the animated comedy series.

In order to better acquaint the general population with ATHF, Interference created several devices to be placed around various public places throughout major cities in the United States. The devices were composed of printed circuit boards painted black, laced with Light Emitting Diodes (LED) arranged in the shape of a Mooninite, an antagonistic character from the show. Each had a power source of four D-cell batteries and a sensor so they would only be activated at night. The final product looks strikingly similar to a homemade version of Hasbro's Lite-Brite toyline, which dates back to 1967. Aside from the units set up for display in Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle, and others received the advertising devices as well.

All of the devices had been in Boston for two weeks before anyone who noticed them thought the police should be notified of their existence.

Now, what really irks me isn't how Boston brought in the every agency they could contact to check out the alleged bombs. This, on the contrary, is something Boston should be applauded for. They swiftly responded to a possible threat with the appropriate manner and I applaud the brave men and women of law enforcement for doing so.

It's the aftermath of the first few spotted 'Lite-Brites' that really gets to me. I'm concerned with how members of the police somehow failed to notice a pattern of all the alleged bombs being decorations. Sometime after the first few in Boston were identified, Interference contacted Turner about the situation. Turner quickly turned out a public statement about their responsibility in the mess, and how the devices were harmless.

"We regret that they were mistakenly thought to pose any danger. The packages in question are magnetic lights that pose no danger. They are part of an outdoor marketing campaign in 10 cities in support of Adult Swim's animated television show Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

But the disorder still continued. Basically ignoring the multi-media giant, when Police Commissioner Ed Harris was reminded (or perhaps told for the first time, as the case may be) that "Turner has issued a statement saying that this is some sort of marketing campaign," the journalist was quickly cut off by the commissioner's response. "We're currently investigating numerous leads… We're looking at that as a possibility, but we're looking at all sorts of possibilities as this point. It really is premature."

The higher-ups of the Boston hierarchy also refuse to treat this whole thing for what it is: a misunderstanding. They have never referred to it as one, and almost always make sure to include the words "hoax" and "scare" when discussing the event to help make sure everyone knows that this was the result "sick individuals." The two individuals in question who posted the devices are now facing charges of placing a hoax device to incite panic, and one count of disorderly conduct. A felony and misdemeanor, respectively. While neither are actual employees of Interference, they were paid to place the packages throughout the city for them. There are currently no charges being brought against the advertising agency.

But city officials aren't the only ones to blame. Despite having little to go on when the scare began, local news stations cut regular programming to cover the developing story. Based on what some reporters were saying compared to what was revealed when the ordeal was over, let's just say some might have been consulting their imaginations to help them fill in the blanks of what was going on. (But I'm sure it was to help them avoid repeating boring information and not for the sake of ratings).

Turner and Interference have also teamed up to pay the bill. Boston's use of resources to cover the event cost the organizations two million dollars. And Jim Samples, head of Cartoon Network for 13 years, left his position. Samples felt, in his own words, "compelled to step down, effective immediately, in recognition of the gravity of the situation that occurred under my watch."

This whole ordeal is absurd. While Turner Broadcasting should have paid more attention to what Interference was doing to promote the film, Boston's responses to the situation have ranged from commendable to inexcusable. Despite several clues and statements about the situation they were given, the officials involved seemingly ignored them and continued to run amuck. Also wrongful is Boston's seemingly inability to "man up" and at least take partial responsibility for the misunderstanding, instead choosing to put the blame on everyone else. Perhaps Boston's city officials and reporters should take some advice from Douglas Adam and "Don't panic" until there's a reason to panic, and not just because someone spotted a package that had some batteries and wires behind it.

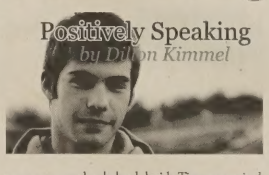
YouTube gives the average amateur a shot at glory

Last weekend, a small group, including myself, embarked on a bizarre adventure to the other side of town with a single purpose in mind: to catch a glimpse of an urban legend, a ghost if you will. Following haphazard directions and a sketchy tale of a spirit who still haunts the area, we found our way to eerie Bruick Road, just a few miles outside of New Haven.

We documented the entire ordeal on a video recorder—Blair Witch style. To make a long story shorter, there was no ghost, but there was no shortage of excitement. And it's all on tape.

Now, a week later, a portion of the escapade is available for millions of people to see every day, all with just a click of a button. It's an internet revolution that is sweeping amateur filmmakers off their feet and turning them into instant super-stars.

Imagine that you're right out of graduate school (or still in it) and you decide to start a small internet company. Less than two years later,



your company has helped decide Time magazine's coveted Person of the Year, ('You') and Google has just bought your "small internet company" for 1.65 billion. Such is the life for Chad Hurley and Steve Chen, the inventors of the internet phenomenon YouTube.

YouTube is flourishing for several reasons, but the main one is its unbelievable accessibility. All that's needed to both watch and upload literally millions of videos is a simple log-in name and password.

No tricks.
No gimmicks.
No extra software downloads.

And in our I-want-it-now society, it was perfect. It is estimated that YouTube receives 100 million video streams a day and that more than 70 million individual users visit the site each month.

Hurley and Chen's creation will no doubt spark a new generation of amateur filmmakers. Why? Because it already has.

The unknown Australian band Sick Puppies found stardom not because of their music but because of their inspirational "Free Hugs" campaign video, which shot to the top of the YouTube charts last year. Only then did their debut song "All the Same" debut on iTunes last September.

Or take Judson Laipply, a comedian and motivational speaker from Cleveland, whose "Evolution of Dance" video has amassed 40 million hits since its upload last April. Laipply's six-minute routine encompasses 32 songs spanning 50 years of dance and music, and was shot in a simple, modest Cleveland night club.

Even the most bizarre videos are making major waves. New York photographer Noah Kalina took a picture of himself for an astonishing 2356 days in a row from January 2000 to the end of July of 2006. The video is a gripping portrait of human change and has inspired millions. Noah? He figured only a handful of people would watch it. Go figure.

As of Wednesday, our debut on YouTube has garnered just 17 views in its week in existence. But YouTube offers us the chance at instant stardom. And maybe the best part of all? It's completely indiscriminate. Average people with average jobs living in average cities are a simple upload away from a filmmaking contract and a spot on Letterman. Now that's a revolution worth investing in.

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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Life

Friday,

Incubus' Flop
see page 7A

THE BENEFITS OF chocolate

From bean to bar, chocolate has evolved through the years with new health effects

The Girl Scouts press their noses to the window, peering in awe at the great mixers and machinery. They stand eagerly awaiting the next sample, beaming when the smooth caramel touches their tongues and grimacing with the tart raspberry cream. The little girls stand on their tiptoes to see through the glass and into the great metal kitchens where delights are made by the thousands. Aaron, the tour guide, patiently explains the behind-the-scenes work that goes into chocolate, as knowledgeable as any of Charlie's workers. But there are no oompa-loompa's here, no chocolate rivers, no waterfalls.

Instead, DeBrand Chocolatiers houses its finished chocolates in impeccable glass cases, giving great care to an ancient treat and protecting their recipes with only two employees. These two women are in charge of the main creamery where all the fillings are made. Some creamers are large enough to make filling for 400 chocolates in one batch, and others are meant only to create the fillings for the few chocolates that have a short shelf life.

After the centers are made, they're squeezed into the chocolates and packaged to be distributed across Fort Wayne and across the world with DeBrand's booming mail-order industry. In the off-season, DeBrand produces about 200 pounds of chocolate every week. From the weeks before Christmas until Mother's Day, the DeBrand factory churns out up to 800 pounds weekly.

And while the chocolates at DeBrand are made under modern lights and machinery, chocolate has its roots in two thousand years of history when the cocoa plant was discovered in the rainforests of South and Central America.

The first to indulge in the luxurious cocoa were the Mayan and Aztec cultures, who mixed the cocoa seeds with spices to make a bitter and frothy drink – hardly the sugary good processed in DeBrand's kitchens. The chocolate drink of ancient civilizations was usually reserved for those in power – priests, soldiers, and rulers – and this tradition carried through to the Europeans who later used colonies to produce chocolate for the upper classes and wealthy. Only with the Industrial Revolutions was chocolate easily available and affordable for the public.

Just as wines and cheeses have different tastes that are often subtle and complex, chocolate, too, comes in varieties of dark, milk, and white. And while chocolate companies boast that their chocolate is the best, true connoisseurs distinguish good from bad by looking at the smoothness and glossiness of the chocolate, seeing how cleanly the chocolate breaks in half, and smelling the chocolate.

Tasting to see how quickly the chocolate melts in the mouth is another key part of chocolate-tasting. Chocolate that is high in cocoa butter, like milk and white chocolates, melt quicker than chocolate that contains more cocoa powder, as in dark chocolate.

Today the chocolate industry has sales that exceed non-chocolate candies; the National Confectioners Association (NCA) estimated that in 2004, chocolate sales were near $15.1 billion, racing past the $7.8 billion in sales of non-chocolate confections. The NCA also reports that in 2006, chocolate sales were up 1.9% from 2005. Yet with all the revenue the chocolate industry brings, questions arise about the health benefits – and risks – of eating chocolate.

"Chocolate contains many chemicals that scientists continue to study to find out how chocolate makes us feel so good," Denise Geller, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, said.

Chocolate is known to produce serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain that brings good feelings and acts as an antidepressant. But the beneficial "feel-good" results of chocolate consumption may not be simply physiological; part of it is due to a cultural impact.

"Most of us just know [chocolate] makes us feel good, as do other comfort foods," Geller said. "We may associate chocolate with special occasions, holidays, or other happy times in our lives. I believe the pleasure food brings to your life through family, cultural, and social interaction is a very important addition to your total wellness."

Studies have found that the antioxidants found in chocolate may help prevent heart disease, ease blood flow, and help with hypertension. Doctors still „recommend that consumption be moderated.

"Even though chocolate has some vitamins and minerals, it also has some saturated fats and carbohydrate sugars," Geller said. "Because it is rich in carbohydrates it is a great source for quick energy...[but] overindulgence in sugars, fats, and total calories can lead to health problems such as diabetes, obesity, and heart related diseases."

Although chocolate comes with health risks, chocolate lovers still indulge, especially with the chocolate surge after Valentine's Day earlier this month.

"I honestly couldn't care less about health advantages or disadvantages, and chocolate is good, so I eat it," Ally Uhey (12) said. "With all the Valentine's Kisses....lying around, it's been hard to resist."

{ companies }

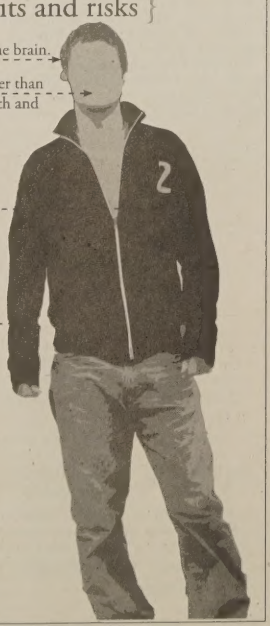
HERSHEY'S Milk Chocolate
Year Est.: 1894
Location: Pennsylvania
Founder: Milton Hershey

GODIVA Chocolatier
Year Est.: 1926
Location: Belgium
Founder: Joseph Draps

DeBrand Fine Chocolates
Year Est.: 1987
Location: Ft. Wayne
Founder: Kathy Brand

GHIRARDELLI
Year Est.: 1852
Location: California
Founder: Domingo Ghirardelli

{ health benefits and risks }



Chocolate may increase blood flow to the brain.

Because chocolate's melting point is lower than body temperature, it melts in your mouth and creates feelings of pleasure.

Antioxidants present especially in dark chocolate, called flavanoids, promote cardiac health, protect blood vessels, and help ease high blood pressure.

Chocolate's chemicals may contribute to healthier and smoother skin.

Chocolate contains important minerals, such as magnesium, phosphorous, and small amounts of potassium, calcium, and iron.

Chocolate releases chemicals – such as serotonin – that produces feelings of pleasure.

The amount of fat found in chocolate can lead to heart disease and diabetes when chocolate is eaten in excess.

{ myths & facts }

• *Chocolate causes acne.*
- Research has shown that chocolate – and diet in general – has little affect on acne.

• *Chocolate is a leading cause of tooth decay.*
- While anything with sugar wears away an enamel, chocolate actually coats the teeth and sugar melts quickly in your mouth, meaning that bacteria has little time to attack if proper oral hygiene is maintained.

• *Chocolate is loaded with caffeine.*
- While chocolate does contain caffeine (about 6 mg for an ounce of milk chocolate), the amount is significantly less than in coffees and teas (which can contain 130-150 mg of caffeine).

• *Chocolate prevents cancer.*
- Chocolate contains antioxidants that break down "radicals" that may trigger cancer, but no studies have proven the link.

• *"Chocoholics" are addicted to chocolate.*
- You may love it, but studies have not found a link between cocoa and addiction.

• *Chocolate is an aphrodisiac.*
- The findings remain murky; chocolate contains traces of tryptophan, a chemical that makes serotonin in the brain. Serotonin can produce feelings of ecstasy, but tryptophan is found in small quantities. The link is questionable.

{ the history of chocolate }

The Mayan culture first harvested the cocoa beans in the forest and learned to process the seeds. The processed seeds were mixed with water, chile peppers, and cornmeal to make a bitter drink.

Columbus brought back chocolate to Spain in 1502 after his last trip from the Caribbean Islands. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand weren't impressed by the bitter cocoa plant.

Hernando Cortes realized the commercial importance of the cocoa bean in 1519. He was the first to add sugar cane to better suit Spanish tastes.

Spain takes credit for serving liquid chocolate steaming hot – the first hot chocolate. Spaniards also added cinnamon and vanilla to their chocolate.

Spain kept their chocolatey secret from the rest of Europe for about 100 years, maintaining colonies in the Caribbean to grow cocoa beans exclusively for production of chocolate in Spain.

By 1657, chocolate had spread throughout Europe as the treat of the wealthy. In 1828, the first cocoa press was invented with the help of the steam engine.

The first milk chocolate was made in 1876 by Daniel Peter in Switzerland.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

The winter of her discontent: Emma struck by February

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

I am thankful that February is the shortest month, because it is the time of year I hate the most. July days can be hot and dull, April is muddy, the holidays are stressful, but the bleak and bitter bite of midwinter brings me to the brink of despair. In February, I become a bear, eating and sleeping and lumbering about with foggy eyes and flat hair and dry skin. I am thicker, denser, slower, as though perpetually post-Thanksgiving dinner. In the dark mornings I can feel my brain decomposing as I stare at the blue bottom of the television screen, waiting for a two-hour delay. The days blur, time marked by math tests and reading quizzes and whatever cookies they have at lunch. I wear shoes that clack on Homestead's tile floors to remind myself that I am still moving, and must keep moving, for there are classes to sit through and notes to take and people to talk to. For the record, I am either "Oh, fine," or "Dece." How about you?

Exercise releases endorphins, yet I feel pathetic at the Y under the fluorescent lights with the other sweaty pale people treading towards oblivion. My face gets really red and I am embarrassed. I walk my dog, sometimes pretending I am an arctic explorer and sometimes just feeling the frozen wind whip through my jeans. I miss gym class. It broke up the tedium of my days. But in February you run the mile upstairs in that claustrophobic cement loop, which might be the most accurate metaphor for this miserable month. Thank goodness for yoga. At the end of class we lie in corpse pose and I pretend I am in a meadow. It's lovely. We are told to envision our thoughts drifting by like twigs and leaves floating on a babbling brook. Incongruously, I see my thoughts as chunks of grayish ice.

"I wear shoes that clack on Homestead's tile floors to remind myself that I am still moving, and must keep moving...."

Emma Farnsworth
Writer

February breeds crazy ideas, vain attempts to liven things up. I start talking about carrying a saber around school, just for show, or purposefully attaining an ISS. I draw on my hand. I vapidly ramble during class discussions (even more than usual). Do you ever get the urge to start a food fight or cartwheel down a hallway or say something really nasty to an authority figure? Earlier this year, Austin Hetrick wrote about an itch to pull pranks – I would, but that'd require organization and I'm really a wimp. So to combat February cabin fever, I set harmless goals to amuse myself. In eighth grade, I took day-long vows of silence for no particular reason. As a freshman, I taped the lyrics to "Paint with All the Colors of the Wind" to girls' bathroom stalls. Sophomore year I became doggedly resolved to earn all three high scores in my calculator's Tetris program. As a junior, I attempted to read the entire brick-like Perrine's literature textbook. A second-semester senior's existence is even more aimless.

Thankfully, we have a few pointless holidays thrown into this awful month to remind us that life is cause for celebration, no matter how dreary it may seem. Groundhog Day is always a real riot – who doesn't love a holiday about a giant relative of the rat? President's Day is a cruel trick: you never get that precious Monday off because some boring snow day ate it up. And Valentine's Day – oh how perfect! As if we didn't feel crappy enough already, here's a day dedicated to reminding singles that nobody is currently attracted to them! I'm being overly dramatic, of course, for the sake of....well, for no reason really. I'm Poca-freaking-hontas (see Dec. 8th issue), and so are you (or you're whatever the male equivalent is).

This year, instead of wallowing in my discontent (although I have already done plenty of that), I'm trying to employ a trick of my perpetually optimistic Aunt Taya: choose entertainment that involves people with horribly screwed-up lives, so that yours doesn't look so bad in comparison. We have to read *The Grapes of Wrath* for novels class – perfect timing. I like to re-read *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* late at night, to remind me that while my life is boring, at least it's not utterly dysfunctional. *Grey's Anatomy* always makes make glad because each episode reveals new ailments I don't have. I emerged from the theater where I saw *Notes on a Scandal* positively beaming: no matter how sucky things are, at least I'm not as screwed up as Cate Blanchett's and Judi Dench's characters. Even a trip to Meijer can brighten my day...look around next time you go shopping and be thankful. I do. It keeps me going until March.

English teacher goes abroad

Virginia Yang will travel to China this summer to teach

By Taylor Harruff
Writer

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

The decorations adorn her wall, a stark contrast from the English lessons planned on her bulletin boards. They're red and gold and easily placed as Chinese. Virginia Yang said that people expect her to be Chinese - instead, her husband gave her the last name and an introduction into a radically different culture. Now Yang has the chance to travel to China to make a difference with teaching. What was just her job here will become the chance to experience the sights and sounds of China, diving in headfirst. Yang took some time to tell *The Spartana* about her plans and her expectations.

Spartana: When did you decide to move over to China? Was it purely job related?

Yang: My husband was born and raised in China, so we've always had a passion for China, for the people, and for the fact that our family, his grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all live there, so after traveling there we've just had an urge to go there. One of the opportunities that my friend told me about was the chance to teach in China while earning our Masters.

Spartana: Where will you be teaching?

Yang: We've requested a university in Northern China, near our family, but we are waiting to hear back from that university. The organization that is placing us can guarantee us a spot; they just have to wait until fall enrollment numbers come.

Spartana: What subjects do you plan to teach?

Yang: I would like to teach students who are going to be English or foreign language students, and my husband might end up teaching business English at the same university.

Spartana: How long do you plan to be over in China?

Yang: We've signed on for two to three years and that is about as far as we can foresee right now. We are going to allow this time to get adjusted to the language and the culture, and see what opportunities might come in.

Spartana: What expectations do you have about the differences in teaching in China?

Yang: [The class sizes] aren't that big, about the same size we have here. Because it's conversational, they want a smaller class size. It's much more structured. The classroom is teacher-lead, whereas here it's more student lead. Education is such a priority for them; I expect them to take this seriously.

They see education as such a door of opportunity, and so I will, as well as the students, take what happens in the classroom as almost sacred. It's something that I'm excited about, learning for learning's sake enjoying that for what it's worth because sometimes I think we take that for granted.

Spartana: And what about the Chinese culture - have you adjusted to that through your husband?

Yang: It was a huge adjustment at first, I really wanted to do my best to embrace it because I wanted to communicate to [my husband] and his family that I wanted to become a part of his family and not take away from that. I try to cook Chinese dishes, we now own a rice cooker, and I didn't even know what that was before hand. It kind of comes naturally, like the decorations in our house for instance; we received a huge nine-foot tall scroll that has a written marriage blessing from our grandfather.

Spartana: How does you husband and his family incorporate the American culture?

Yang: His parents live in the states, but their English isn't as strong, and that was a struggle to communicate at fist for both families, but it was a hurdle that we had to get over at first. You just had to understand that things might not come as easily, and you might not be able to sit down and just chat about what's going on.

Spartana: Favorite Jackie Chan movie?

Yang: Rush Hour. We quote Rush Hour quite often. We watch all the hero movies.

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: Gay Marriage

Some states allow it, some don't; should homosexual couples be allowed to marry anywhere and everywhere?

Jeremy Sturgis Miller

If they want to be together, I don't see why they should be stopped. The government can allow it, then leave it up to churches to decided if they want to have gay marriage services and such.

In a legal sense, [gay couples] should be allowed to be married. As for religion, churches can believe whatever they want on the issue; they dont need to control the rest of the country by saying that [gay marriage] shouldn't be allowed.

It doesnt affect me if gay marriage is allowed or not.

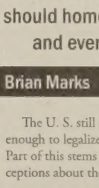
Brad Zehr

Marriage is a lifetime bond between a man and a woman, and no other situation can be labeled as "marriage." Marriage is the foundation of a family, and stronger family units are what would drastically improve our society.

Two men or two women who love each other should be free to date, live together, travel, work, learn, and play together, but that sort of relationship is not a true marriage.

Brian Marks

The U. S. still isn't tolerant enough to legalize gay marriage. Part of this stems from misconceptions about the dynamics of families with homosexual parents. A summary of studies conducted on the children of gay parents suggested that they were no more likely to consider themselves gay than the children of heterosexual couples. So if homosexual couples are able to raise children as well as heterosexual couples, why are so many people still afraid to legalize gay marriage?



How does allowing gay people to marry and be happy harm anyone? The argument that gay marriage defies the definition of "marriage" is specious. Opponents of gay marriage say it should not be legal because the definition of marriage is a bond between a man and woman. However, when asked why marriage is defined as such, the answer is "because that is how we choose to define it."

Kristina Vragovic

There are many countries that require any couple to get a civil union which entitles them to all the benefits of being legally bound, and then the couple gets married within their church.

I think the United States would benefit from this kind of a system, especially because it claims to allow freedom of religion and practice the separation of church and state. It would be up to the churches to decide the moral issue of whether the term "marriage" should include gay couples, since that's really the only arguable point here.

Sammy Scaringelli

If you love someone, you can't change how you feel.

For it's who you are and what you feel. So if you're a man loving a man, or a woman loving a woman, it's no different than a man loving a woman.

You're being pretty discriminatory. That's like saying an African-American person can't marry a white person. So if someone loves someone, let them get married.

It's not hurting me or you.

Want to share your voice on local and national issues? Join the Controversy group on Facebook and give us your opinions.

the Spartana on Facebook.
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After classes, students take charge with clubs

By David Greco
Writer

Students trudge through seven periods a day, paying attention to little except for homework and assignments doled out by the teacher. Little do they realize that the very classes they attend haven't always existed, and that many of the specialized clubs after school have been started not by the school but by students who use extracurriculars as an outlet for interests based on the curriculum but fall outside of the scope of the classroom.

"Any chance where [students] have control over their school experience, there is a greater chance to be more involved," Scott Hill, English teacher, said.

While Homestead does not have such clubs as the Model U.N., Beekeepers Club, or even Stamp & Coin collectors, students can make these clubs by simply opening up a student handbook. As outlined by the handbook, "a group of interested student should contact the administrator in charge of student activities to inform him/her of its intentions and discuss the procedure."

This group of students also needs to present a case that the club is tied to the curriculum somehow.

The handbook goes on to say that "a faculty advisor must be obtained… the teacher… must write a letter… indicating his/her willingness."

After this step, students can then organize a group of "interested students" to create objectives and goals in order to present these to student government to be approved.

As soon as student government presents the proposal to the administration for approval, if it is approved, the club must create a constitution to be approved by the student government.

Finally, after the constitution is approved, a "formal club" is established. This lengthy process ends with the creation of a club account with the treasurer and a record of all officers in the principal's office.

Right next to the list of extracurriculars a student participated in is the list of courses taken. Because the classes that students take can affect their future careers after high school, students pay particular attention to what is and what isn't in the course selection guide each year.

One of the most recent classes to be added to Homestead is the World War II class taught by Jon Baker.

"I met with Homestead, middle school, and central office administrators to approve the curriculum," Baker said.

The World War II class was approved in between the six-year cycle that the administrators use to revamp and update the curriculum.

"It took about three to four meetings and several weeks to get it approved," Baker said.

> *"The strongest clubs are those that are generated by a community of students who share a common interest in something."*
>
> Scott Hill
> English Teacher

"I think that creating a club gives people the chance to learn more and experience things that they normally would not be able to in school," Eric Curfman (11) said.

Other local high schools vary in their clubs; Canterbury High School has clubs such as Amnesty International, Just Earth, an activist club, Mimesis, a creative writing organization, Sententia, a student writing publication, and Science Show, a group of students that performs science tricks for children around Fort Wayne.

These clubs allow for the students to express themselves outside of the textbook and homework arena.

After the school board makes numerous suggestions and approves the subject, the class can be admitted to the school curriculum when the board votes to allow it. An AP World History class is currently on the table for consideration.

The clubs and classes that currently exist at Homestead provide a place for students to express their own interests with students they possibly did not know had the same interest.

"The strongest clubs are those that are generated by a community of students who share a common interest in something," Hill said.

STARTING YOUR OWN CLUB

1. Contact Jennifer Bay, the administrator in charge of student activities, to discuss the club intentions and the procedure.
2. Obtain a faculty advisor who must write a letter indicating their willingness to help. This will be filed with the administrator in charge of student activities.
3. The student should then schedule a meeting with the possible advisor to establish the approximate number of those interested in the group.
4. At this meeting, outline the purposes and objectives of the club.
5. Present the purposes and objectives to student government. Student government will present the program to the administration for approval.
6. Once the proposal is approved by the administration the student and advisor may begin to structure the constitution.
7. Present the constitution to student government for ratification. Once approved, a formal club will be established.
8. File the constitution in duplicate at the principal's office. Contact the treasurer regarding the opening of an account. Record all officers in the principal's office.

Remember, all clubs are to apply to the curriculum in order to be approved. See page 85 of the student handbook for more information.

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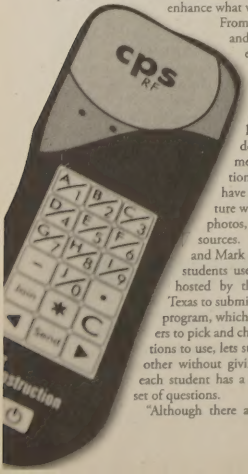
Advanced technology in school replaces lectures

Students now able to submit homework online, interactive education possible at college level

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

Logarithms that were once done with a table and a pencil can now be punched into a calculator; film from World War II that a used to be unavailable is now readily shown in European history classes. And as the chalkboards are replaced with white boards, bigger technological changes are occurring. For many students who grew up in the computer generation, internet access and multimedia are a must. But education hasn't always been as high tech, and now the educational institutions are stepping up to increase support for technology in education. Whether through online classes and tests or presentations in the classroom, students are exposed to technology that brings the textbooks to life.

Southwest Allen County School's (SACS) recognizes the need for a curriculum bettered by media; the district's Community, Media, and Technology (CMT) website says that "Media resources are constantly being evaluated in terms of how they complement our curricula, enrich our knowledge base, and provide perspectives that allow users to develop their personal critical thinking skills. They do not supplant curricula materials, but rather they enhance what we offer."



From video projectors and internet to PowerPoint presentation and movies, the classroom has diversified from basic to high-tech. Students use various media for presentations and teachers have enriched the lecture with relevant films, photos, and original sources. Stanley Crum's and Mark Lenfesty's physics students use a web interface hosted by the University of Texas to submit homework. The program, which allows the teachers to pick and choose which questions to use, lets students help each other without giving answers since each student has a slightly different set of questions.

"Although there are occasional issues regarding rounding errors and misinterpreted questions, the program as a whole is very beneficial," Brandon Saalfrank (11) said. "I feel that it's very beneficial to the student in that they instantly know which problems they got wrong on a given assignment and the grade they'll be receiving at the end."

And while Homestead has a wide variety of ways for students to experience education in new and advanced ways, students taking higher education at local universities find that the technology used in college classrooms rivals the gadgets in high school.

Dr. Patrick Ashton's sociology classes at Indiana University Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW) use a wireless remote to integrate students into the classroom.

"Well for one, it was required that we purchase the "clicker" for class," Andy Rosenblatt (12) said. "Its purpose is for attendance and so we can poll the whole class on a certain issue and get the classes sociological perspective on a certain issue. It comes with a central device that is wireless that the teacher has, and by punching a few buttons [he] can register if you attended class that day."

And like the program used in Homestead's physics courses, the e-instruction remote allows for direct results right away for students and teacher to utilize.

"It allows students to almost instantly see how their response to a question compares to the responses of their classmates. Students report that they enjoy and appreciate this, and it maintains interest in the class," Dr. Ashton said.

"Minus the $20 cost of the clicker, I think it is very helpful for classroom participation," IPFW and Homestead student Molly Rodenbeck said.

Students submit their assignments over a program called WebCT that connects students to teachers immediately and changes the image of the traditional classroom.

"Technology has changed dramatically in the past decade. It affects the way the course is delivered: PowerPoint supplements the lectures, WebCT supports the class, and E-mail and instant messaging allow unprecedented contact between the instructor and the students," Dr. Ashton said.

But when it comes to whether college classes beat high school in the educational technology race, the results are mixed.

"I think Homestead's technology is just as good if not better than at IPFW," Rodenbeck said.

"College technology is far superior then it is at high school," Rosenblatt said. "[But] I think most technology whether in the classroom or out of the classroom is designed to be beneficial and helpful."

Teachers single out rude behavior as teen etiquette turns sour

By Kara Hackett
Writer

The basic concepts of good etiquette are taught at a young age: no elbows on the table, chew with your mouth closed, and always remember those two magical phrases: "please" and "thank you." But the problems concerning the etiquette of today's society have evolved into more than a simple lack of table manners. Today's teenagers seem to be increasingly deficient in displays of respect, consideration, personal hygiene, and appropriate clothing. It seems that today's young society has begun to forget a countless number of fundamental manners, antagonizing hundreds of discontent adults about the outcome of such a adolescent generation accused of rudeness.

Manners for the Real World, an organizational movie produced in North Carolina, conducted a national survey of more than 1,000 parents; 95 percent said that they felt more people today lack good manners than when they were growing up, and two thirds said they were either "very" or "extremely" concerned about this issue. For years adults have been ridiculing teens on good manners, but recently it seems that there might be logical motives behind their complaints.

"I believe public presentation is very important, and that includes appropriate clothing and appropriate language," Marjorie Gamble, math teacher, said. "You start out from behind if you present yourself poorly. Also, in the case of applying for a job, you may not get the opportunity to overcome the first impression."

It sounds easy enough to act politely and make a good impression on a day to day basis; yet, in reality, it is often difficult to balance good etiquette with a relaxed social life.

"I see some 'good manner rules' ignored as we attempt to become accepting of all people. Where is the line between accepting all people and accepting all behaviors?" Gamble said.

Teachers find that students often behave unacceptably in their own classrooms, and that students may not even realize that their actions are rude.

"Based on my observations of student behavior, I believe today's teenagers lack a certain presence of mind when it comes to etiquette or manners," English teacher Jan Venderly said. "What I mean by this is that oftentimes students are unaware that they're not practicing good manners or that certain actions are a part of their behavior."

Venderly pointed out that actions which teenagers often do obliviously, like "yawning audibly" during lectures and answering cell phones at tables in restaurants, say a lot to watching adults about the manners of the young society.

"Technology has made us 'behave badly.' I can't get over the number of people I see whipping out cell phones at the table in restaurants," Venderly said. "This action, to me, says, 'This call is more important to me than your company.' We've become slaves to these things…. These points address very simple, traditional behaviors, but when I point out to students that they're not displaying basic manners, they often stare at me blankly, or indignantly. I guess that also addresses the fact that students often disregard teachers as authority figures."

Most teens agree that etiquette corrections from adults are annoying and humiliating, but in a survey done by Brigham Young University, the majority of teens say that they expect adults to be upset when students violate moral standards. The results of the survey cloud and post questions as to the reasons that teenagers have to rebel when they know that their actions will be met negatively.

The top three reasons teenagers resort to deplorable etiquette are to satisfy their desire for attention, to fit in with a certain group, and as a way of claiming their new found individuality. Teenagers, having recently taken interest in distinguishing themselves from their parents, begin to take their individuality to the extremes by being very opinionated and talking back to authority. Over time, the good habits installed in a child's mind by their parents gradually become overshadowed by the peer pressures that originate in junior high and can last well into a student's college years.

> *"I find it ironic that parents are concerned about the manners of young people when parents are the ones who are responsible for instilling manners..."*
>
> Jan Venderly
> English Teacher

Venderly questioned whether perhaps parents are to blame for the lack of manners displayed by their youth.

"I find it ironic that parents are concerned about the manners of young people when parents are the ones who are responsible for instilling manners in their children," Venderly said. "As both parents work in many homes and students' time is spread thinly among many activities, family 'together' time has decreased substantially. Many values are modeled and shared during this family time. Etiquette is a topic touched on when values are discussed. Quite simply, we don't take or make the time for passing on the rudiments of good manners."

musicreviews

Incubus' latest album falls short of sounds from earlier years, fan remembers band's past successes

By Greg Kyes
Writer

It's no question to anyone familiar with Incubus that the Southern California-based rock group has a tradition of evolving from album to album. On a new album they always seem to manage to leave just enough of a trace of their old sound to make the music recognizable, while simultaneously revealing an entirely new side of the band. Their latest release, *Light Grenades*, is certainly no exception. The only real question is how many sides does this 16-year-old band have on them?

One thing is for sure: this is not the band who screamed at you to "redefine" with their funk/metal-based sound on their 1997 release *S.C.I.E.N.C.E.* As they gained mainstream success, Incubus began producing more "radio-friendly" material and still managed to keep their unique twist. They blew the charts away in 2001 with the album *Morning View*.

But the biggest curve the band ever threw was the 2003 release of *A Crow Left of the Murder*, which gave off an Indie-rock vibe very different from anything the band had done before, and left many fans (including myself) in a very confused and disappointed state. But the more I listened to *A Crow Left of the Murder.*, the more I loved the album and realized my initial reaction was very inaccurate. So when *Light Grenades* was released, I made the decision to listen numerous times without expectations before I made a final judgment. Unfortunately, the more I listened to this album the more I realized it is mediocre at best.

Tracks one and two are the best songs on the album, therefore giving the listener high expectations for the rest of the album and ultimately setting the album up for failure. The opener, "Quicksand," layered with texturing sounds and haunting vocals (reminiscent of Radiohead), is slightly different from past Incubus tracks and serves as a great intro song.

"Quicksand" flows right into one of the heavier songs on the album, "A Kiss to Send Us Off." The song showcases a very familiar part of Incubus, with driving bass and drums overlaid with guitarist Mike Einziger's massive presence, topped off with lead singer Brandon Boyd's smooth voice and killer range.

> *"[Go back and listen] to their first five albums so that you don't mistakenly perceive mediocrity to be the only output of a very accomplished band."*
>
> Greg Kyes
> Writer

The fourth track is the band's latest single "Anna Molly." I don't quite know what to think of this song; it's very catchy and sounds like something deserving of radio play (but these days that's really not saying much).

The title track, "Light Grenades," is a good song, but is so short that you almost miss it as it flies by. My favorite song is probably "Rogues;" the combination of the punchy and up-beat melody, the strong-spirited chorus, and the flaring guitar solo give the shortened song a very effective edge.

The most disappointing part of the album, in my opinion, is not that there are a lot of bad songs (most of the songs are just plain mediocre), but the bad songs are truly terrible.

I don't want to be too hard on one of my favorite bands, but the third track "Dig" is perhaps one of the worst songs I have ever encountered in my music-listening adventures.

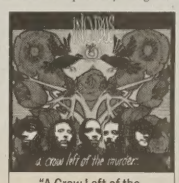
Brandon Boyd has always been known for his top-notch poetic lyrics and really disappoints with lines like, "We all have something that digs at us, at least we dig each other."

Or better yet, "I only apologized to make you feel better, I think I've outgrown that horsehair sweater" from the attempted acoustic ballad "Paper Shoes." When I first heard that I had to listen again to make sure my grandma's Alzheimer's wasn't rubbing off on me.

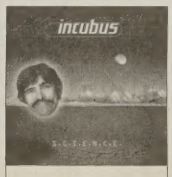
Although I wouldn't necessarily say this release is a setback for Incubus, I would say it is a little under par in comparison to their previous albums.

Even with all this said, I still advise everyone to check *Light Grenades* out. It's really not that bad, but listen under the following conditions: first, listen with absolutely no expectations, and second, after you have listened to the album enough to tolerate it or maybe even grow to like it, do yourself and the band a favor by going back and listening to their first five albums so that you don't mistakenly perceive mediocrity to be the only output of a very accomplished band.

"Light Grenades"
November 28, 2006



"A Crow Left of the Murder"
February 4, 2004



"S.C.I.E.N.C.E."
November 20, 2001

"Morning View"
October 23, 2001

Live music locally: the Firefly coffee house

By Greg Kyes
Writer

The Firefly: hot coffee, live music, and a chill vibe in a warm atmosphere. It's everything Starbucks wants to be and more. Although it's a bit of a drive to Anthony Boulevard, it just might be worth the time to make a stop at this Indie retreat. Don't judge The Firefly by its small building; a pull-in won't do any harm. In a rush? Plan on ordering one of their famous fresh-fruit smoothies with an "energy" or "memory boost," but if you happen to be at the Firefly coffee house on a Friday or Saturday night with no other particular plans, grab a table, order a coffee, and enjoy the sounds of some local live music.

The first thing we noticed walking in was the energy. The combination of smiling faces and warm coffee invited us to a table. The barrista's relaxed attitude made it easy to order off an unfamiliar menu, and she was quick to suggest a drink when asked. After some deliberation and quiet small talk we sat down to a table for two and waited for our French Press. The music choice of the night: live jazz by Bob Schurger for a one dollar cover charge. The back laying drum beats with a mellow walking bass line provided free reign for Schurger's guitar to explore numerous scales and jazzy melodies.

As the night went on there was a constant flow of people, everyone from college professors, students and families. Yet somehow all the demographics meshed into one of the most unique and hospitable public environments around. Two French Presses later the band had finished their set and was mingling with the crowd. The night never got old and the warm vibrations kept coming our way. When it was finally time to leave, we almost felt like waving goodbye to the person at the table next to us. We didn't, but as we left we did drop a small tip into the jar on the barrista's counter. It seemed like the least we could do in return for a free refill and such a comfortable evening.

FIREFLY EVENTS:

Feb. 24 - Bob Thompson from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Open mic night every Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

FIREFLY INFO:
3523 North Anthony Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN
(260)-373-0505

HOURS:
Mon. - Thurs. 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Sat. 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

MENU ITEMS
Enjoy hot coffees, teas, and desserts, as well as sandwiches, salads, muffins, and other breakfast foods.
Cost of a short hot chocolate: $2.45
Cost of an iced mocha: $3.15

Find out more at www.fireflycoffeehousefw.com

filmreview

by Dillon Kimmel, due to Chris Purdy's absence

Norbit

Norbit Rice's (Eddie Murphy) luck ran out the day he was born. Quite literally tossed onto the doorstep of the Golden Wonton Restaurant and Orphanage, Norbit endures a not-so-normal upbringing, even by orphan standards. The one bright spot in Norbit's early life is the genial Kate (Thandie Newton). The two become best friends at the orphanage, even going as far as to "marry" each other at the tender age of nine. But when Kate gets adopted, Norbit is left with nothing but a broken heart.

So when the burly Rasputia (Eddie Murphy) barrels her way into Norbit's life, the lonely, introverted geek is happy to have someone who is willing to be there for him. Fast forward 20 years: the years have not been so kind to Rasputia's figure, the two are (not so) happily married, and she rules their cozy home with an iron, oversized fist.

Utterly henpecked, Norbit has all but given up that he will ever live a happy life when he abruptly discovers Rasputia is cheating on him and that Kate has moved back home to buy the orphanage she grew up in. But in order to rekindle the fire with Kate, Norbit must avoid his meddlesome wife or risk her jumbo-sized wrath. To further complicate matters, Norbit soon learns that Kate's scheming fiancé (Cuba Gooding, Jr.) and Rasputia's three brutish brothers plan to steal the orphanage's land away from Kate and build a strip bar in its place. Insecure after years of abuse at the hands of his mountainous wife, Norbit must summon courage he never thought he possessed to protect his long lost love from making a grave mistake.

Norbit walks the tight rope of political correctness and narrowly avoids stumbling into the abyss of complete distaste. It spares no group when taking cheap shots, and its childish sex gags garner few laughs. At times, a scene seems to have potential, but then some on-screen idiot does or says something to quickly turn those giggles into eye-rolls.

Eddie Murphy, who plays three roles in the film, follows up a wowing performance in *Dream Girls* with a distinct thud. Murphy used to flourish as multiple roles in comedic classics like *The Nutty Professor* and *Coming to America*, but his talents are badly misused in this film. He plays three distinct characters (Norbit, Rasputia, and Mr. Wong, the head of the orphanage in which Norbit was raised) but fails to differentiate the three. They all come off fake and surprisingly boring. Even the boisterous Rasputia is so unruly that she becomes all-too predictable in the movie's closing moments. She is so rude, so vulgar, so obnoxious that she single-handedly chokes the life out of the entire film. It's as if the filmmakers got together and tried to come up with the absolute worst image of a housewife they could possibly imagine, then proceeded to create her. The result is revolting and hideous.

This is *déjà vu* filmmaking (I think I've seen this before) at its best. I've seen every gag, every joke, and every piece of slapstick violence in this film in other, far more superior comedies. It's rude, crude, and nothing is new. The premise sounds like a good, comedic time, but the actual result is almost as painful as the look on Eddie Murphy in his latex cellulite suit.

Kimmel's Rating: ★

Eddie Murphy plays both key roles and one minor character in this month's *Norbit*, coming in with harsh reviews. Photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

Teresa Budasi, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Here is potential all over this film, but every scene is overwrought with unfunny caricatures and tired jokes. We've seen every gimmick and sight gag before, in better, funnier films."

Gene Seymour, *Newsday*

"What seemed an inventive and engaging stretch of Murphy's comedic resources 11 years ago has congealed into predictable...fare...guaranteed to drag the laughs out of you whether you like it or not...."

Mick LaSalle, *The San Francisco Chronicle*

"*Norbit* is a tour de force in which Murphy plays three distinct characters, two of them to the hilt. In fact, the only thing that makes *Norbit* good rather than great is that the title character is a bit bland. The good news, however, has something to do with sitting in a theater laughing out loud for 105 minutes."

Robert Butler, *The Kansas City Star*

"I could deal better with mean-spiritedness if the film were better written and directed. But the picture's humor is hit and miss, with long unfunny passages and characters who really don't change much."

Scott Tobias, *Onion AV Club*

"It probably isn't possible for a single movie to reverse all social progress made since the civil-rights era, but *Norbit*, the latest broadside from Eddie Murphy, does its best to turn back the clock."

1. Claire Lundergan (10) and Morgan Beard (10) throw snow up in the air on the first snow day.
2. Danielle Gauthier (12) creates a snow angel on her day off.
3. Greg Kyes (11) sleds down a hill. Kyes and others enjoyed sledding and playing board games on their days off.
4. Gauthier (12) and Chelsea Garton (12) create snow angels before sledding.
5. Erin Quinn (11) displays the giant peace sign she made in the snow out of footprints.
6. Alex Tordi (11) shows off his shelter that he made out of snow.
7. Sophomores Laura Kusisto, Nikolette Lipsey, Katherine Sarkisian, Alison Podlaski, Margaret Distler, and Maria Walker link arms to form a line going down a hill behind the bus parking lot.

snow days

As snow blankets the streets of Allen county, the Spartana looks at what students did on their coveted...

sledding, skating, snow balls, igloos, cold, snow men, hats, icicles, flurries, blizzard, drifts, snow angels, freeze, skiing, snow blowing, shoveling, school cancellations, sitting by the fire, hot chocolate, scarf, mittens, gloves, jacket, frost bite, powder, wet snow, icy, two-hour delays, snow ball fights, boots, snow mobiling, cancellations.

13th & 14th of February

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Sports

Friday, February 23, 2007

Wight loses in first round

After an undefeated regular season, Justin Wight (11) is upset in the first round of the State tournament last weekend. page 3B

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Heather Moore (12) congratulates Jessica Skiba (12) following her victory in the 500 freestyle at last week's State meet in Indianapolis.

STATE MEDALISTS

1st 500 Freestyle Jessica Skiba 4:59.86

Lap 1	27.93
Lap 2	30.09
Lap 3	30.39
Lap 4	30.57
Lap 5	30.15
Lap 6	30.06
Lap 7	30.35
Lap 8	30.10
Lap 9	30.47
Lap 10	29.75

4th 100 Butterfly McKenzie Bagan 56.74

4th 100 Breaststroke Emily Haifley 1:05.60

5th 200 Medley Relay 1:49.51

Heather Moore	29.29
Emily Haifley	29.98
McKenzie Bagan	25.92
Emily Keefer	24.32

5th 200 Freestyle Relay 1:37.44

Emily Keefer	24.58
Emily Haifley	24.65
Kristen Witham	24.10
Jessica Skiba	24.11

6th 400 Freestyle Relay 3:35.50

Kendra Kinzer	54.31
Heather Moore	54.88
Kristen Witham	53.39
Jessica Skiba	52.92

6th 200 IM Jessica Skiba 2:08.06

6th 500 Freestyle Kristen Witham 5:08.84

Skiba's triumph highlights State run

Coach Englehart praises team as eight Spartans medal in three relays, five individual events

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

Girls swimming takes fourth overall

After last year's disappointing eighth place finish at State, the girls went into this season determined to accomplish more. After winning sectionals the week before, they got their chance to improve upon last year's performance at the State finals Feb. 9 and 10.

With nerves running high, the State swim team traveled to IUPUI on Friday morning. The State team consisted of Jessica Skiba (12), Heather Moore (12), Kristen Witham (12), Kendra Kinzer (12), Emily Haifley (11), Alexis Klefeker (11), McKenzie Bagan (10), and Emily Keefer (10).

Alternates Kelly Veenstra (12) and Kristen Kinzer (10) also went with the team. While at pre-lims, three relays and numerous individuals advanced to the finals, which took place on Saturday, Feb. 10.

"As the Friday night session went on, I thought we swam smarter and faster. We finished up the night with a new records by junior, Emily Haifley, in the 100 breaststroke and the 400 freestyle relay," Skiba said.

Saturday came and the girls said they were definitely ready to prove all of the hard work and preparation they had done was about to pay off. Scanning the crowd, the swimmers saw a cluster of blue and gold cheering them on. The finals began with the 200 medley relay. Moore, Haifley, Keefer, and Bagan finished the race with a fifth place finish.

"Our relay did excellent. We had so much fun and were glad we placed so well," Bagan said.

Another relay the Spartans participated in was the 400 freestyle. Kinzer, Witham, Moore, and Skiba concluded the race in sixth. Haifley, swimming a personal best the night before, finished fourth in the 100 breast, and Bagan would then finish fourth in the 100 fly.

Homestead finished fourth overall with a score of 173. The Carmel girls continued their extended dynasty over the rest of the state, taking an unprecedented 21st consecutive title, handling second-ranked Hamilton Southeastern by 55 points. But Coach Chad Englehart was proud of the girls' performance.

"The girls did such a great job, and I'm so proud of their accomplishments. They were a very strong group of girls and I knew they were going to be successful. Being ranked in the top five, I knew they had a good chance of doing very well at State. I admire all of the hard work and dedication they have contributed to the team," Englehart said.

With the end of another run to State, the team will be losing a strong group of seniors next year, but Kendra Kinzer was encouraged by their swan song.

"Speaking for the seniors, it's heartbreaking to think that was our last high school swim meet, but it was certainly one to remember. We couldn't have done it without our supportive fans, encouraging coaches, and amazing teammates," Kinzer said.

Skiba first individual winner since 1998

It is the pinnacle of high school athletics, the accomplishment any serious athlete dreams of: a State title. For the girls swimming program, that summit had not been reached since 1998, that is until Jessica Skiba broke through with a winning performance in the 500 freestyle at the State finals last Saturday.

Heading into the race, Skiba was seeded fifth after a less-than-satisfactory performance in the pre-lims. She was determined to do better in finals. Key to victory was Skiba's strong start. In fact, her first lap, clocked at 27.93 seconds, was easily her fastest of the race. Her last lap was her second-fastest but was still more than a second and a half slower than her first.

On the ninth lap, however, her lap marker unknowingly held up the wrong lap count. Skiba said later that she realized immediately what was going on and managed to keep her cool in the process.

As the race began winding down, Skiba and top-seeded Alexandra Young from Carmel were within a second of each other going into the final stretch. Aided by the support of her fellow swimmers, fans, and coaches, Skiba made one last-ditch effort to put Young away, finishing the race in 4 minutes 59.86 seconds. She lifted her head to the jumbo screen above her and saw her name on the top of the scoreboard.

Below her was Young, having finished just .73 seconds behind. Fellow swimmers rushed onto the deck to greet her and tears of joy began to slowly run down her face.

"Everyone from Homestead was going nuts. We were screaming and jumping and hugging everyone. The race was great," Bagan said.

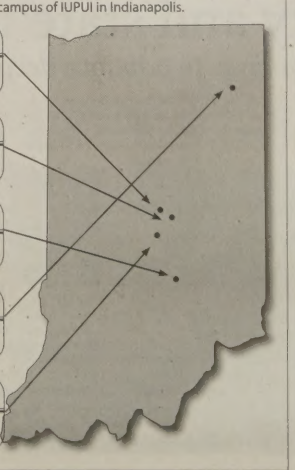
Skiba's father was able to watch his daughter win State after missing sectionals due to a serious medical complication that landed him in the hospital.

"I was happy that my teammates, friends, and family were there to cheer me on," Skiba said. "It was a surreal experience, and I was so proud of my team at that moment."

IHSAA GIRLS SWIM & DIVE STATE FINALS RESULTS

The 33rd annual girls swimming & diving finals were held on February 9-10, 2007, at the Indiana University Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI in Indianapolis.

1. CARMEL (335) — *Carmel, Indiana*
2. HAM. S. EASTERN (280.5) — *Fishers, Indiana*
3. COLUMBUS NORTH (185) — *Columbus, Indiana*
4. HOMESTEAD (173) — *Fort Wayne, Indiana*
5. NORTH CENTRAL (127.5) — *Indianapolis, Indiana*



BOYS STATE SWIM & DIVE PREVIEW

The boys swim and dive team will make another State appearance this weekend in Indianapolis. Prelims will be held today and finals tomorrow, Feb. 24.

14 swimmers advanced out of sectionals and will be competing. At sectionals last week, Zach Johnson (11) set sectional records in both the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly.

Two Spartan divers will join the 14 other swimmers. Kurt Hansbarger (12) and Kyle Frebel (11) advanced out of regionals with scores of 431.25 and 401.55, respectively.

The team is presently ranked fourth in the state and will try to duplicate a runner-up performance last year.

RANKINGS

State rankings for the boys State swim and dive meet.

1. Hamilton Southeastern
2. North Central
3. Chesterton
4. Homestead
5. Munster
6. Northridge
7. Carmel
8. South Bend Riley
9. Yorktown
10. Lake Central

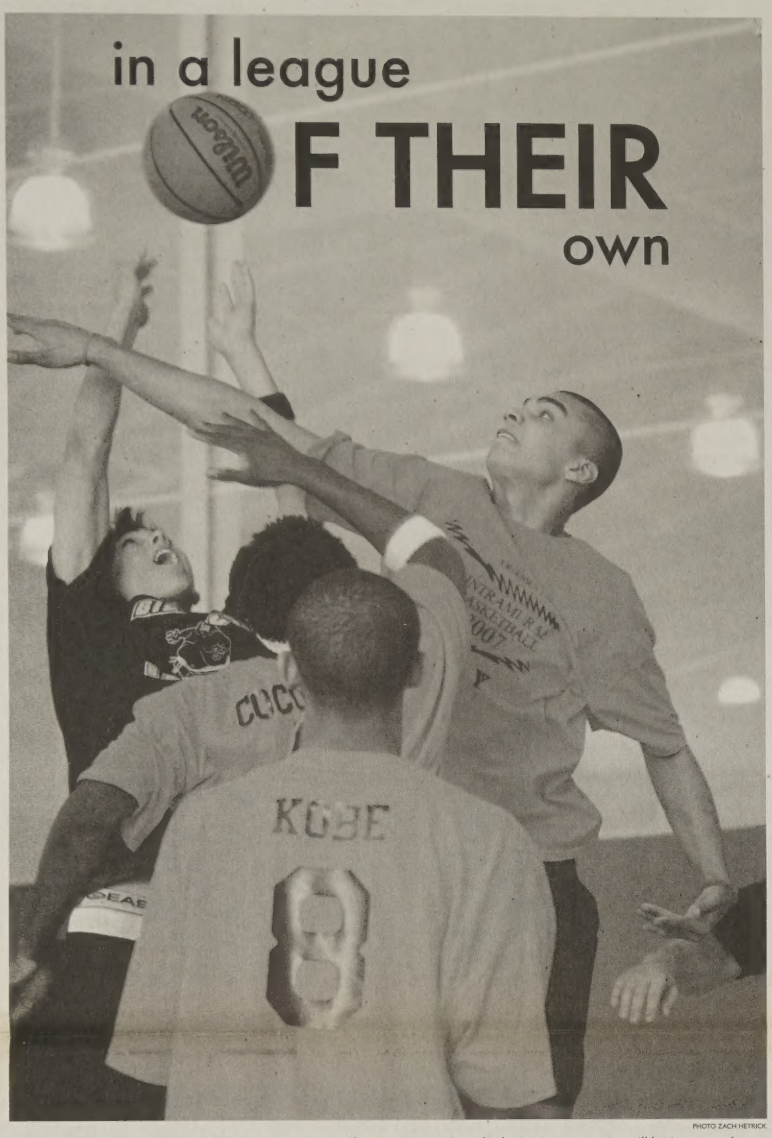


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Intramural basketball players fight for the opening tip in a regular-season game. A single-elimination tournament will begin next week.

Intramurals a competitive alternative to organized sports

By Mat Mikesell
Writer

For many students, basketball serves as a suitable hobby. It's an activity confined to free time and weekends, but other than the occasional pick-up game, basketball doesn't make up a large part of the student's life. For these students and many others, weekly Intramural basketball games at the local YMCA serve as a good taste of competitive basketball.

Games typically take place each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with three contests held per day. The games last about an hour each.

There has always been a large contingent of students who participate in the tournament each year, and this year is no exception with 18 teams in the league.

"I like Intramurals because it gives everyone a chance to play. There are tons of kids who either aren't good enough to play for Homestead, don't have the time, or just would rather play for fun. Whatever the case is, it's a chance for a bunch of guys to get together and compete every week," Josh Butcher (12) said.

In his final year of Intramurals, Butcher wants to make sure this season counts. Butcher's team, the Biddlecome Ballers, may arguably be the best team in the league right now. Another strong team, the Tappa Mega Keggas, may also contend for the Intramural title. Deuce Droppers and The Fab Five are also teams that have proven to be strong contenders in the regular season and look to makes a push for the regular season title as well.

There are two divisions in Intramurals. These divisions are simply known as "A" division and "B" division. The "A" division is for the more experienced teams in the league while the "B" division is for the inexperienced teams. At the end of the regular season, each division will have its own tournament to declare a champion from each division. This is set up in an effort to keep the teams on a level playing field and also to help avoid heavily one-sided contests.

"It's usually pretty competitive, and there's a lot of guys at Homestead who like basketball," Austin Carr (11) said.

Several students said one of the most popular facets of Intramurals is the possibility of bragging rights, especially among friends. While some do Intramurals purely for competition, others are competing against their friends from other teams. Another benefit of Intramurals is the absence of the pressure that frequently accompanies organized sports. Students can have a good time without having to worry about the ramifications of a poor performance.

Even the fan base seems to be on the rise. For the top teams in the league, as many as twenty or thirty friends of the players may come to watch the games and cheer them on, and even some students who are not friends of the players may turn out simply to enjoy the competitive play.

"The more skilled teams are always more fun to watch than the teams that aren't as good," Reid Braun (10) said. "It's also more fun to watch the closer scoring games than the blowouts."

The regular season wraps up this afternoon, as The Dynasty will take on Deuce Droppers at 3:00 p.m., Final Cuts will play Americaz Most Wanted at 4:00 p.m., and finally the Unicorn Alliance will battle Grey Goose at 5:00 p.m. A single-elimination tournament will begin next week to decide the Intramural champion.

Lady Spartans' run ends with loss to South Side

By Kara Busse
Writer

A late-season surge by the Lady Spartans was ended by third-ranked South Side in the second round of the sectional tournament. The Feb. 9 loss came on the heels of a first-round upset of Snider three days before.

The girls rallied from a poor start to the season to post a 13-11 overall record, the first winning record in Head Coach Rod Parker's tenure.

The unusual suspects stepped up and led the team on Feb. 6 in the Lady Spartans' 63-60 win over Snider. New to the varsity squad, Rachael Kruse (10) stepped up and led the team with 15 points. Katelyn McMillin (12) also had a big impact with 13 points. The girls said the performance was one of their best of the season, even better than the Lady Spartans' one-point win over the same Lady Panthers during the regular season.

"Both our offense and defense ran really well that night," Kruse said.

The girls had little time to celebrate the win, however, as they drew third-ranked South Side in the second round. Riding momentum from the win over Snider, the girls managed to stay in the game during the first half, but South Side would eventually pull away.

"We progressed as individuals and a team and started winning games like we should have from the beginning"

Rachael Kruse (10)
Varsity basketball player

The Lady Archers went on an extended scoring run in the third quarter, and the Lady Spartan defense couldn't hold up against South Side's tenacious offense. After the buzzer sounded, it was the Lady Archers who moved on in sectional play, posting a convincing 78-52 win over the Lady Spartans.

While it was a sad evening for the team, most of them felt good about the season and seemed content with their final performance. At the beginning of the season, many local experts picked the girls to finish near the bottom of the NHC Conference and certainly not post a winning record. The team, however, proved those critics wrong, finishing two games over .500.

While Kruse admitted the team did not perform as well as they should have in the first half of the season, she was happy with their late run, even if it wasn't enough to get past South Side.

"We didn't play well the first half of the season but then we progressed. We progressed as individuals and a team and started winning games like we should have from the beginning," Kruse said.

Several underclassmen, including Kruse, will return for another campaign next year, and the girls will most certainly look to build on the momentum built up this year. Perhaps Coach Parker and the girls will be able to ride that momentum to a sectional title in 2008.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Rachael Kruse (10) prepares to pass the ball during the Lady Spartans' battle with Northrop.

Hockey gears up for city and state tourneys

Team trying to overcome defensive shortcomings to advance deep in postseason play

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Despite all the work and effort put into this season by the Spartan hockey players, they now begin the "second season" with a blank slate. The team's 12-8 record and third place finish in the Fort Wayne Area High School League are essentially meaningless, as the postseason begins.

Pending a win against North Side (scores were not available due to press deadlines) the Spartans will secure a number two postseason seed, edging out Snider for the spot due to tiebreakers. The win sets up the Spartans to make a move this postseason in both the city and state tournaments. The single-elimination city tournament with be held first, with the top two seeds receiving a bye in the first round. Despite their high seeding, the Spartans will face a tough task in winning the tournament, likely having to defeat both Snider and top-seeded Carroll to win. However, a recent tie against the powerhouse Chargers, which would have been a win had Carroll not scored with two seconds left, has given the team confidence in their ability to win the city.

"Tying Carroll was a big step," Sam DeStefano (11) said. "They're the team we'll most likely play in the finals, if we get there, and we definitely know we can beat them."

"Definitely tying Carroll shows we can play with them," Mario Baldassari (12) said. "They've been pretty dominant all year and to tie them gives us confidence heading into the city tournament."

"I know we're coming in as the underdog in 4A, but I think we can surprise some people and make a dark-horse run at a championship."

Sam DeStefano (11)
Hockey Player

In order to get past Carroll, the Spartans will need to continue to play solidly, as they have in the past few weeks. The Spartans have had a potent offense throughout the year but have struggled on defense at times. However, the team has stepped it up in the last few weeks, as the effort against Carroll shows and is ready to continue their hot streak in the playoffs.

"Defense has always been a problem for us," John Morrison (12) said. "We have been working better as a team, [recently] and we're starting to pick it up on defense."

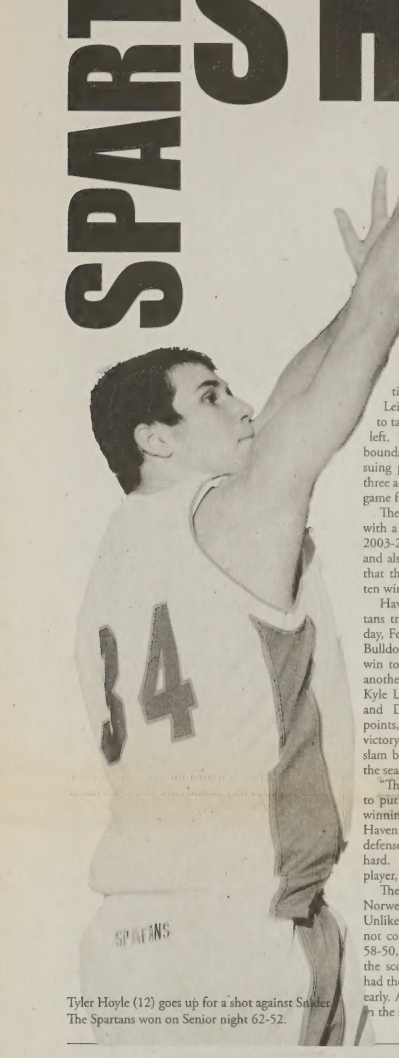
"If we focus on defense, our forwards have been scoring a lot all year," DeStefano said. "We just need to keep it tight on the defensive end and keep up the strong play."

After the local city tournament, the state competition will complete the postseason for the Spartans. They have been placed in the 4A state tournament while Snider, with a similar record, was placed in 3A. The placing in 4A will mean a hard road to victory in the state tournament, as the Spartans will have to face top-ranked Marion, and likely the number four-seeded Columbus and the fifth-seeded Cathedral/Chatard teams in order to win the tournament. However, having performed well against Marion and Cathedral/Chatard during regular season invitationals, the Spartans are not intimidated by their tournament draw.

"I think 4A will give us a lot more competition," Morrison said. "We just want to play as well as we can."

"Though it is more competitive in 4A, we've completed one of the goals we set at the beginning of the season just by getting here," DeStefano said. "I know we're coming in as the underdog in 4A, but I think we can surprise some people and make a dark-horse run at a championship."

SPARTANS SHOOT SHORT



Tyler Hoyle (12) goes up for a shot against Snider. The Spartans won on Senior night 62-52.

By Chris Ray
Writer

With sectionals only four days away, the varsity boys basketball team looks to be building some much-needed momentum heading into postseason play.

The team won two of its last three games, though they lost a double overtime heartbreaker on Wednesday to Elmhurst, 63-61 in double overtime. In the second overtime, Kyle Leiendecker (12) hit a tough runner to take a 61-60 lead with five seconds left. But Elmhurst would take the inbounds pass down the court on the ensuing possession, hitting a desperation three at the buzzer. It was the final home game for the Spartans.

The team finished the regular season with a 9-11 record, the first time since 2003-2004 that the team has done so and also the first time since 1997-1998 that the Spartans ended with less than ten wins.

Having lost three in a row, the Spartans traveled to New Haven on Saturday, Feb. 3, to take on the New Haven Bulldogs. With only one conference win to date, the team was looking for another victory in the NHC. Led by Kyle Leiendecker (12) with 26 points, and Desmond Lewis (12) with 13 points, the Spartans coasted to a 54-39 victory highlighted by a one-handed slam by Lewis, the team's first dunk of the season.

"The team decided that we needed to put Jan. behind us and start a new winning streak, and we did that at New Haven. We just wanted to play intense defense, focus on our shots, and play hard. ," Chase Sanders (11), a varsity player, said.

Their next game came against the Norwell Knights on Thursday, Feb. 8. Unlike their last game, the Spartans did not come to play. They lost the game 58-50, but the game was not as close as the score suggested, as the team never had the lead after falling behind by nine early. Although the Spartans fought back in the second half, the team could never come within six points of the Knights. Lewis had 14 points and Leiendecker added nine. The loss dropped the Spartans to fifth place in the Northeast Hoosier Conference with a 2-5 record.

The team had eight days to prepare for their next opponent, the Panthers from Snider. The home game was also Senior Night, and the seniors were honored for their four years of participation in the sport. With the team up comfortably in the closing minutes, just one senior, David Blake (12), had yet to get into the game. With 27 seconds remaining and the crowd chanting Blake's name, Coach Chris Johnson put him into the game. Blake was greeted by a raucous cheer from the crowd. The Spartans beat Snider by ten, 62-52.

The Spartans' struggles at home have caused many fans to develop mixed feelings about coming to games. With the new rule not allowing students to stand on the floor in the student section put in place, there has been a decrease in enthusiasm from the students and fans, however some of the players feel the criticism is unjust.

"I really think the fans need to quit being so negative. They are still allowed to stand up and cheer at the games, just not in the front row. The fans need to be as supportive to us as they were the first game of the season," Sanders said.

"Going to the basketball games is still interesting because I, personally, know most of the guys on the team and I enjoy watching them play. I haven't lost a lot of interest in the team throughout the duration of the season," Patrick Veerkamp (10) said.

On Tuesday, the boys basketball team would continue their mini winning streak, squeaking by a 2-16 Northrop team at home, winning 49-44. Desmond Lewis (12) led the Spartans with 12 points in the win.

Next Tuesday, Feb. 27; the Spartans will play their first sectional game of the season. The Spartans drew Snider as their first-round opponent.

The Panthers are 7-12 overall with their final game of the season tonight against 16-3 Marion. The Spartans will look to defeat Snider again, just as they did last week. A win would mean a matchup against the winner of the North Side-Huntington North game.

Wight upset in first round of State finals

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

Justin Wight's (11) undefeated streak came to an end in premature fashion last week at the Wrestling State Finals, as he lost his first-round match to Ben Williams of Chesterton. Williams was 40-7 going into the match. Wight's season ended with that loss, while Williams would go on to wrestle three more matches, losing each of them.

"I don't think that I wrestled my best. I would say I could have done much better. I definitely think I should have placed, if I had wrestled my best." Wight said.

Wight was added to an elite list last Saturday, February 10, when he won the semi-state in the 112-lb. weight class. Four other Spartan wrestlers participated in the semi-state, though all but one of them lost in the first round. Andrew Fahlsing (11) won his first-round match but failed to advance past that point.

Wight won four consecutive rounds in the semi-state competition to become the champion. The performance momentarily improved his overall record in his weight class to 30-0.

Last year, Wight also advanced to the State competition but failed to place among the 16 other wrestlers in his weight class. He felt, however, that experience had prepared him for this year. Unfortunately, he placed no better but still has another year to accomplish his goals.

Prior to the match, Justin's goal was to place at the competition, which he failed to do in the 103-lb. weight class last year. He said next year he hopes to finally reach the goals he set for himself this year, which also includes a top-five finish at State.

"I was really upset afterwards because I really felt that I could have beaten him. It's hard to say why I lost; I guess I just wasn't quite ready for it." Wight said.

Out of the 13 wrestlers who advanced to regionals, four were able to advance to semi-state. Wight, Fahlsing*, Kyle Carlson (12), and Will Bostain (12) placed in the top three wrestlers of their weight class to advance. Fahlsing won his first round matchup but lost to the Elkhart Memorial wrestler who eventually became the semi-state champion in his weight class. Each of the four wrestlers were excited to receive the opportunity, however, to wrestle at semi-state.

"It was a good opportunity. It takes a lot of hard work to get that far. Not a lot of people get that opportunity" Carlson said.

While wrestlers can advance to State individually, teams can also advance. The wrestling team advanced through sectionals after placing second but then lost to Columbia City in the first round of the Regional meet. The loss meant the team could no longer advance, but individuals were still allowed to advance separate from their respective teams. Columbia City would go on to win the regional meet and continue on to semi-state.

The team will lose several key seniors next year, including Bostain and Carlson but also returns semi-state qualifier Fahlsing and State contender Wight for another season. Next season, not only will several individuals have a good shot to reach State, but the experience of the team may aid the team in their bid for a trip as well.

PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Justin Wight (11) attempts to pin his opponent in a regular season match. Wight was upset in the first round of the State finals last weekend in Indianapolis.

Fourth-ranked boys swimming sends 14 swimmers, two divers to State this weekend

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

For most school systems, a trip to State in any sport is a tremendous accomplishment, a rarity that only comes around once in a great while.

The boys swimming team has made a habit of reaching this pinnacle, and once again the Spartans will make an appearance at the State finals in Indianapolis. Prelims were held today and finals will be held tomorrow, Feb. 24.

The road to the State finals began with sectional preliminaries on Feb. 15. The sectional finals were then held two days later, Feb. 17, and the boys would again show their dominance. The Spartans won the sectional championship easily over Huntington North, piling up 300 points more than the Vikings.

They were just three points away from a perfect meet. Every event was won by the Spartans, and each winner was under the state cut, meaning they would advance out of sectionals.

Zach Johnson (11) set sectional records in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke. Others that led the way for the team were Ryan Dafforn (12), Adam Lill (12), Robert Titcomb (12), and Nick Jones (10).

14 Spartans will be headed down to compete in the swimming events, and two Spartan divers will also be competing after making it through Regionals, which were held Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Kurt Hansbarger (12) and Kyle Frebel (11) will represent the divers after they posted scores of 431.25 and 401.55, respectively. Hansbarger will dive sixth while Frebel will dive eleventh.

The team is currently ranked fourth in the state polls and hopes to at least finish in the top four at the State meet.

> *"[the whole team at state] will also help cheer everyone on and hopefully calm some of our nerves."*
>
> Ryan Dafforn (12)
> Swimmer

Coming off a runner-up performance last year, the team is will no longer be able to surprise the competition. Throughout the season the team has participated in many events which featured the other top teams in state. They had solid showings in all of these events, but the state meet is on a whole different scenario.

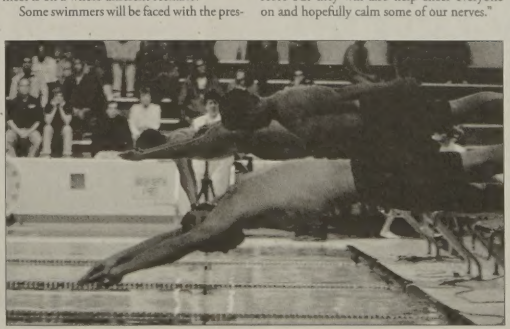
Some swimmers will be faced with the pressure of a packed natatorium at a State meet for their first time. Fortunately the Spartans have many experienced swimmers which hope to carry the team to an impressive showing.

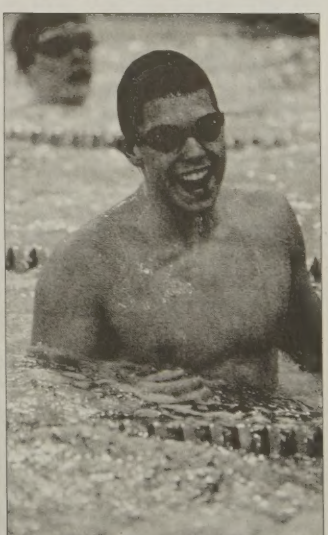
"Even though I've been down to state before I will still be nervous the whole time leading up to it. Having my friends and teammates to keep me calm will help me perform better," Dafforn said.

Hamilton Southeastern, North Central, and Chesterton were all ranked ahead of the team heading into the state meet. However, after seeing and competing against these teams several times throughout the year, the team felt the were well prepared for the meet and insist they won't be surprised by anything they see.

The Spartans will have a broad showing this weekend as they will have swimmers in each event, including all of the relays.

"Having our whole team go down to State will be a big help," Dafforn said. "Obviously we will be able to get a overall better team score but they will also help cheer everyone on and hopefully calm some of our nerves."





PHOTOS: ZACH HETRICK

Top: Anderson Whipp (10) celebrates a strong finish in a swimming event in a recent home meet. The boys swimming team was just three points away from a perfect meet. Left: A group of boys swimmers takes off from the platform to begin a race in a recent home meet against East Noble. 14 members of the boys swimming team and two divers will be participating in the State meet. Prelims are today and finals will take place tomorrow..

[Photos By Zach Hetrick and Margaret Distler]

Finishing In Fourth

Girls Swimming State Finals

Saturday, February 10 2007

IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis

Above: McKenzie Bagan (10) swims the last lap of the 100 Butterfly. She finished with a time of 56.74. Left: Kristen Witham (11) and Jessica Skiba (12) share their excitement with each other after Skiba won the 500 free. Below: Jessica Skiba (12) swims backstroke in the 200 Individual Medley.

Highlights from the Meet (According to the State Team)

We sang and danced to crazy songs when we were on the bus. • We had our picture taken with a pink monkey on our drive down to Indy. • On Friday afternoon, we shaved together at the hotel. • Our attire included 'Granny Glasses' and our purple state 2007 t-shirts. • Our coach Chad let us eat the chocolate mints at Olive Garden. • The 400 free relay set the school record with a time of 3:34.96 during the Friday prelims. Swimming on the relay were Kendra Kinzer (12), Heather Moore (12), Kristen Witham (11) and Jessica Skiba (12). • Jessica Skiba won the 500 freestyle with a time of 4:59.86. • We came in fourth place with a total of 173 points.

In the Box: Emily Haifley (11) congratulates McKenzie Bagan (10) after the 100 Butterfly. Above: Head Swim Coach Chad Englehart and Kelly Veenstra (10) celebrate Bagan's fourth place finish. Right: Heather Moore (12), Jessica Skiba (12), Kendra Kinzer (12), and Kristen Witham (11) share a hug after breaking the school record in the 400 free relay during the Friday prelims.

issue 10 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

Friday, March 9, 2007

Lyrical champs, again

The dance team won the lyrical division at the state level for the sixth time in a row. In addition, Kelley Strothmann (11) competed in the solo division. Photos on page 8A

PHOTO AND ILLUSTRATION LARRY BUCHANAN

Woodside Principal Rick Smith will replace Dianne Moake as Homestead's leader following a national search

SEARCH ENDS

By Austin Hetrick, Reporting by Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editors

Rick Smith, current principal of Woodside Middle School, will replace Dianne Moake on July 1 as the school's principal. Smith, 52, will have a two-year contract at a salary of $102,700. He was unavailable for comment for this article; Smith was travelling to Indianapolis on school business.

"My main goal is to assess what our needs are," Smith said in an Interview with the Journal Gazette. He also said he will look to find a vision for Homestead's future.

Smith's promotion comes after the district spent more than $10,000 on a national search firm tasked with filling Moake's position.

"It's always nice to see people from within move up," superintendent Dr. Brian Smith, no relation, said in an interview for the Gazette. "He is ready to go after this and do some great things at Homestead."

Half of the school's students will know Smith from Woodside, where he has worked for eight years and was assistant principal for the eight years prior to taking the lead position in 1999. Smith will be joined at Homestead by Woodside's current vice principal, Joe Updegrove who is replacing John Ankenbruck as athletic director, and will also be able to hire an assistant principal to replace Chris Johnson who is moving to Woodside.

Economics teacher Susan Summers taught under Smith for eight years.

"I think because Smith knows many of them, [the transition] will be easier for the staff and the students," Summers said. "Mr. Smith is well-read on education philosophy and he concentrates a lot on initiatives and new ideas. At Woodside his focus was always to make [school] re

See Principal on page 2A

FORMER HOMESTEAD PRINCIPALS

Tom Goldsberry
1973

Richard Clevenger
1973

James Manak
1973

James Freese
1996

Graduate murdered

Linda Sipe grieves for Suamy Mateo ('04)

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

Suamy Odette Mateo followed her mother's wishes and fled the dangers of Honduras for a safer, suburban life in Indiana. Mateo, however, wanted more than a "safe" life; she wanted the American dream. In less than a decade in this country Mateo had found much of what she'd been looking for: she adapted to an entirely new culture, opened her own business, married, mothered a child, and was considering attending college. Last month, however, Mateo's life was cut short. The '04 graduate was just 22 years old when she was killed.

Saumy Mateo ('04)

On Feb. 13, the Fort Wayne police opened the door to Mateo and her husband's apartment on Palatine Drive. Inside they found Mateo and her husband dead, Mateo the victim of a murder-suicide. The couple's son was away at the time of the murder, and plans for his future are still undecided.

In the week before her death Mateo contacted the police looking for help at the urging of her brothers. The police report states that Mateo asked for advice on how to divorce her husband, a man who she had married half way through her senior year at Homestead. The police advised her to talk to a lawyer, and that they had no bearing on the issue.

"It turned into a police matter when he murdered her three days later," close friend and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Linda Sipe said. "[Suamy] was a smart girl and she knew what a lawyer did, she was afraid."

Suamy did not fear her own safety, Sipe said, but instead the guilt that would follow if she left her husband. Time and time again he would threaten to shoot himself if she left, or possibly leave for Columbia with the couple's three-year-

See Graduate on page 2A

BRIEFS

CHANGES IN CROWD POLICY

Following a February basketball game where crowding caused problems, administrators and the athletic dept. chose to remove students from the floor of the gym. Athletic Director John Ankenbruck said that students were crowding the floor and felt it necessary to prohibit students from loitering around the floor during games.

SLC COORDINATOR CHOSEN

The Smaller Learning Community (SLC) Coordinator has been chosen. Barb Ciscsko, formerly a director at Indiana University/Purdue University Fort Wayne, will be in charge of the $500,000 grant Homestead recently received from the Gate's foundation. The grant will be used to create group advising for students throughout their high school years.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: Just Because Week preview
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial: Why Woodlan won't happen here
PAGE 4A, Life: Project Excel gives students a chance to express their creativity,
PAGE 5A, Life: Facebook Forum: legalized marijuana up for debate
PAGE 6A, Life: Step team's first year culminates in performance at variety show
PAGE 7A, Life: 'Zodiac' receives three stars
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: Dance team's victory in photographs
PAGE 1B, Sports: Boys swimming takes 5th
PAGE 2B, Sports: Boys basketball loses first round sectional game to Snider
PAGE 3B, Sports: Gymnasts place 8th at sectionals, fail to move on to regionals
PAGE 4B, Sports: Boys swimming ctd.

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 23 issue of the Spartana, girls basketball coach and Woodside teacher Rod Parker was reported to have his first winning season as coach this year. This season is actually the team's fourth above .500 in Parker's tenure. The Spartana regrets this error.

At state, dance wins lyrical division

Holly Thompson (12) takes first in senior solo

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK
Thompson cries after her win is announced.

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

Donning air-brushed hats, side ponytails, long pink shorts, and lime green shirts, the Lady Spartan dance team once again took home hardware at the Dance State Finals in Indianapolis. For the sixth consecutive year, the dancers brought home a first place trophy, taking first in the lyrical competition. The team also placed third in the elite jazz category.

The competition was held at Lawrence North High School on Feb. 24 and 25 to. All dance members went to compete and could compete in any of three categories: Varsity level, JV level, or solo events.

"State overall was very fun but hectic. We had some scheduling conflicts, which wasn't too helpful. In the end, the stress and exhaustion paid off when they called Homestead as state champions in lyrical," Kelsey Mrowczynski (12) said.

Gabby Acquaro (11), Lindsay Baker (12), Amanda Clay (12), and Kelley Strothmann (11) made up the members of the large ensemble. The ladies performance of "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" finished in third place in the large ensemble category.

The team also placed in two small ensemble categories. Ann Cutaia (10) and Laura Aleman (10) placed fourth while Amanda Operschall (12), Mrowczynski, and Christine Hansen (12) took sixth.

Aside from the group ensemble events, many of the dancers competed in solo events, which were separated into junior and senior divisions.

See Dance State on page 8A

BPA advances 16 to nationals

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

Senator Barack Obama will be meeting with several Homestead students in New York City this May – the presidential candidate will be appearing at the National Business Professionals of America (BPA) Conference. 7,000 students from around the nation have qualified to compete at the conference, 16 of those will be from this school. This is only BPA's second year here.

"It was really nerve-wracking being up on stage in front of all those people, but I'm really proud of my accomplishment," Liz Kitto (12), who qualified in Fundamental Accounting said. "I was just really excited, everyone else had been doing so well, and from previous years people said nationals was a lot of fun."

Last year, only three students out of the 20 that competed advanced to the national competition.

See BPA on page 2A

NATIONAL QUALIFERS

Liz Kitto (12)
Puja Parikh (12)
Margaret Squires (11)
Erin Kniss (12)
Kevin Nowak (12)
Tyler Churchward (12)
Patrick Mullen (12)
Taylor Pyle (12)
Jeff Corajod (11)
David Jarmus (12)
Justin Johnson (11)
Henry Shine (12)
Kyle Knezovich (12)
Rahul Gupta (11)
Dave Boyer (12)
Mike Salvador (12)

PHOTO AUSTIN HETRICK

Art club to paint mural

By Austin Hetrick and Phil Aleman
Executive Editor and Writer

The wall outside the dance studio is a white-washed square, home to photos of dancers at state—administrators admit that at Homestead, it's just one of many pale, "institutional" walls. Seniors Susan Watrous and Keith Couture and the Art Club are about to change all that. Over the next month they'll bring color into the hallway, painting a floor-to-ceiling mural of their design, the first in Principal Dianne Moake's effort to bring color back to the school.

"I'm looking forward to getting this project off the ground," Watrous said. "It will be much different than anything I've ever worked on before. Even though I worked on larger canvases before, this will be still quite different because I've never worked on something this size before."

Currently Watrous and Couture have a 12 by 18 inch acrylic paint mock-up of what

See Mural on page 2A

JUST because WEEK

March 12th - 16th

By Erin Quinn, Reporting by Puja Parikh

Dirty Duckers - Monday the 12th

The week starts out with the annual Dirty Duckers dodge ball tournament, as the junior girls have their chance to upset the senior girls in a "battle 'till the end.'"

The event, which replaced the Powder Puff football game between the classes, is not lacking in competitive spirit. Some students believe that because dodge ball is more universal that football, Dirty Duckers is more popular.

About 60 juniors and 50 seniors will participate, split into teams of eight players each. The championship match up will be determined after a tournament within each class provides the two best teams from each grade.

Kate Taylor (11), the student government representative who organized the event, has high expectations for the event.

Dodgeball players should arrive at 6:30 p.m., and Taylor encourages spectators to come and cheer for their grade or favorite team at 7:00 p.m.

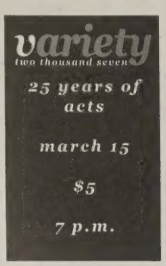
The small price of admission, $3, will go toward the general fund for prom decorations. Junior and senior girls participating in the event should have picked up their shirts today in the backroom, and will wear them to school on Monday to promote the game.

"It's going to be really fun and exciting," Erin Kniss (12) said. "We're going to make the juniors cry."

Kniss's nickname is "Silly Rabbit." Her team decided on nicknames based off of foods. Other players' nicknames include "Aunt Jemima," "Betty Crocker," "Crackle," among others.

Variety Show - Thursday the 15th

The main event on Thursday will be the Variety Show. This year's show is different than those of the past because for the first time it will be a student-run production. The drama department declined to participate in the show this year, but certain student government representatives and publications staff members refused to let the 25 year tradition die. Larry Buchanan (12). Austin Hetrick (12), Greg Kyes-Myland (11), Galen Harden 12), and Mike Peck (12) organized the show, with help from James Chase (12) and Will Kioultzopoulos (12) in the audio and visual departments.



"We decided to do the variety show ourselves because we felt that the students deserved a chance to show the rest of the student body their talents," Buchanan said. "We didn't want it to be another thing that used to be fun, but now is a figment of the past."

The show includes 17 acts ranging from soloists to groups of 16 members. Not to ruin the surprise, the dance groups, bands, and comedy routines will be intertwined with bits by emcees Kyes, Peck, Collin McCracken (10), and Kate Taylor (11). Auditions for the show were held Feb. 21, 22, 23, and chosen acts will rehearse on Tuesday. Tickets for the show will go on sale Monday.

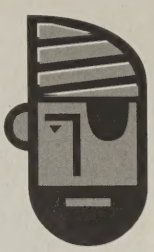
"I think it'll be sweet," Jordan Logan (12) said. "Mack and I have been practicing on and off for a while now."

Logan and Mack O'Shaunnessy (12) will be performing Jimi Hendrix's Voo Doo Child for the variety show. They auditioned February 25.

Morp - Friday the 16th

The week will end with the student-government dance, MORP. The theme this year is pirates, so students should grab their correct T-shirt size while they last and outfit themselves with all the eye patches and bandanas they can find.

Shirts will be sold in both red and black this year, although guys and girls are not assigned a specific color, nor do partners have to buy one of each. They will continue to be on sale until next Friday.



That night, the dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. at Hilger's Farm Restaurant on U.S. 30. Eye patches will be handed out at the door by SADD volunteers.

Quinn Brenneke (9), who was in charge of setting the event up, said, "I cannot wait for MORP, things are coming together and it is going to be a really awesome dance."

Charlie Butcher will DJ all night to create "an atmosphere for a great time," Brenneke said.

Girls around the school continued to ask guys to the dance last week, some of them going to great lengths to make their invitations unique and interesting.

One junior wrote a message to her date on a wall, another saved a photo of herself in pirate garb on her date's computer.

"I'm kind of interested in what it will be like, considering the theme is pirates," Nick Myers (11) said. Myers will have dinner with friends prior to the dance and plans to dress in the traditional MORP T-shirt.

Mural, continued from 1A

the real mural will look like. The actual mural will use a paint compatible with walls, such as an enamel or latex-based paint.

"We built off of each other," Watrous said. "Keith is a big fan of drawing form. I work with color, and I really enjoy portraits. After he sketched the first thumbnail we did another...put some music on, and worked on it at the same time. That's what really fueled the inspiration."

Couture and Watrous were asked to submit rough designs for the mural to the administration.

Their rough draft caused some controversy, however, when they were asked to change a few details by administrators.

"I expected there to be some revisions," Art Teacher and Art Club Advisor Sarah Jones said." I think that revisions are just part of the process when an artist is hired to create something, and should be expected."

Jones plans to continue the murals next year.

"Our ambition is that the mural project will be a privilege for senior Art Club members to look forward to and encourage them to participate in..." Jones said.

"We're not going to let any minor miscommunications stand in the way of carrying out this amazing project. We've learned a lot during this process and it will just become easier each year. I'm...anxious to see the masterpiece that is sure to result from [Keith and Susan's] collaboration on this project."

> *"We built off of each other. Keith is a big fan of drawing form; I work with color... we put some music on, and worked on it at the same time. That's what really fueled the inspiration.*
>
> **Susan Watrous (12)**
> Painter

Principal Moake has known for some time that the school is a "sterile" environment, and she's been wondering how to do something about it.

"I think [the murals] are an excellent way to bring some color back into the hallways," Moake said.

When the school was remodeled nearly ten years ago, teachers removed many of their hall decorations: bulletin boards, posters, and some art was removed. After the remodeling was over, however, many teachers didn't return their decorations, and the walls remained freshly painted.

Following the remodeling, Moake began to hear complaints that the school was "institutional" and "sterile;" the murals, designated club photo boards, and purchased artwork are in response to these complaints.

The school will be funding the murals out of its student activities fund.

"I think it's nice that we can make a mural to hopefully inspire those who will view it," Watrous said."

Graduate, continued from 1A

old son. When Suamy reached out to her friends; he threatened to hurt them too. So Mateo stayed in the relationship

In recent weeks her family and friends have mourned Suamy's death.

"Her funeral was very bare bones," Sipe said. "When I first arrived at the funeral home there was not one flower. She was 22 years old, a beautiful girl, and not one flower."

Sipe purchased flowers from a local store and added her own contribution.

"Normally there is healing going on the outsides of a viewing, good memories being shared; there was none of that," Sipe said.

E-mails and letters were sent to foreign exchange students around the world alerting Mateo's friends of her death.

"I just got an e-mail from Croatia about a young girl that is having a hard time going on while knowing that something like this has happened…to someone she knew," Sipe said.

A Quiet Student

In the 2002 yearbook there are just two photos of Saumy Mateo. In the first a 16 year-old Mateo looks timidly into the camera. In the second, a smiling Mateo fills bird seeders at Fox Island, part of the community involvement program at Homestead. Mateo, a junior at the time, is remembered by Sipe and her friends as a quiet girl who spent her years here as many ESL students do: trying to fit in and adjusting to a new country.

Mateo arrived in Fort Wayne from Honduras in her eighth grade year. Her father, who lives in the United States, gave her a way into the country, and Mateo joined the ESL program at Woodside where she first met Sipe. In her five years at SACS, Mateo became close to the small number of kids in Sipe's classes, they journeyed through the halls of Homestead, English, and adolescence together.

"She was quiet," Sipe said. "Many people probably didn't even know she existed at this school, but she was very important to those few people that knew her."

Now, in her death, Sipe feels Mateo has sent a message to all of Homestead. Sipe sees her message in a young murdered woman who married a man twice her age.

"People tried to say that [dating him] wasn't the best choice. But you're young and in love and you know best," Sipe said, reflecting on Suamy's high school engagement. "I'm sure she never thought when she left here that she was only gong to live to 22."

The young girl who joked with her friends about 'getting' a boyfriend had always made family her priority. She giggled as her mom blurted Spanish over speakerphone to her English-speaking teacher. She opened her own business that helped the Hispanic community communicate with their relatives in Mexico.

"She wanted to go back to college," Sipe said. "I even helped her fill out the application."

Mateo did not know what she wanted to study at college; she hoped to begin in general studies.

"If there is anything good to come from this, it is for students to think about the choice they make and the people they choose to be their boyfriend." Sipe said. "We have to see that we are not invincible, with the wrong choices, at 22 your life may be over."

Principal, continued from 1A

ally relative to the real world, I think he'll continue that here."

"[Hiring Smith] will be a nice transition for the students to have someone they know, and it'll probably help [Smith] as well," Latin teacher Ellen Waite said.

Summers said that, while at Woodside, Smith was instrumental in changing the school from periods to blocks, as well as in bringing technology-centered education to students. Middleschoolers under Smith spent time in technology labs and also had the chance to be in Integrated Solutions Blocks (ISB), a time set aside for cross-curriculum learning.

"I think any time you can have a person that knows the needs of the school district, the goals of the school district, has an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses, plus already having a rapport with staff and students, you're already ahead of the game," Moake said.

"When I came into being the principal that was a plus to me when I knew the staff, and knew the things that we were struggling with, the things that we were doing well, and the kids knew who I was."

> *"[Hiring Smith] will be a nice transition for the students to have someone they know, and it'll probably help [Smith] as well."*
>
> **Ellen Waite**
> Latin teacher

Moake points to one area where she believes the school still needs improvement.

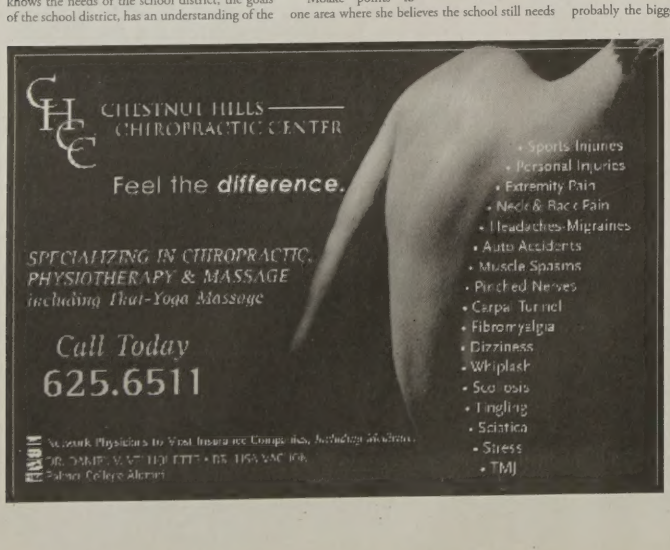
"I think one of the things that we need to work on, we're becoming more diverse as far as student needs and as far as what students want to do with their lives when they leave here and so we need to be looking and addressing academically and socially across the board, making sure that we're addressing all those needs. That's probably the biggest change I've seen over time here, becoming more diverse, and that I think it will continue and we'll have to be looking at how we can do a better job with that."

Contrary to what was reported in the Journal Gazette, Moake is not interested in taking a principal's position anywhere in the district.

"I thought [Smith's hiring] was interesting," Caitlin Ryan (12), a Woodside graduate said. "I had no polar reaction, though. I'm sure he'll do a good job."

Smith's promotion was announced at Tuesday's school board meeting, and came as a surprise to teachers and to Moake.

"I was a little disappointed that the press knew before the staff did," Waite said. "It's not that big of a deal but it would have been nice if we knew first."



BPA, continued from 1A

This year, 16 of the 31 students qualified, including two students, Margaret Squires (11) and Puja Parikh (12), who qualified in two events. Parikh is a two-time state champion in both of her events. Mike Salvador (12), the school's BPA president, is a two-time qualifier who went to Orlando last year.

"When you take 31 students and 16 make it, it's just phenomenal," Gayle Topp, the advisor for the Homestead's chapter of BPA, said. "They surpassed my expectations. I was surprised but very excited, especially because it's only our second year as a program. This reflects on the whole business department."

The national conference will be held in the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan. Post-secondary, secondary, and middle school students will all be attending. The conference will also sponsor a tour of the city. Topp hopes to take students to Wall Street and to see Broadway shows.

"I'm just really excited to see Barack Obama speak. I've never been to New York so it will be a great experience." Kyle Knezovich (12), who qualified in Banking and Finance, said.

Knezovich was on the Financial Analyst Team (FAT) along with Caroline Rondot (11), Jon Seybert (12), and Salvador, who were upset during final round.

FAT advanced to the final round, but failed to advance to the top five and did not receive a national bid. FAT is judged by the three top accountants in the state, including an associate from Charles Schwab, a leading financial service provider.

The state competition was held in Indianapolis at the Marriot hotel. BPA's strict dress code, where students had to wear professional attire while outside of their floor, reinforced the aspect that the conference was strictly a professional one.

"I'm excited because we are taking a lot more people this year, it will be good for the development of the program and help students in college and with their careers," Salvador said.

page 3A
issue 10 volume 37
homestead high school
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Opinion

Friday, March 9, 2007

Newspapers: A dying breed

By Phil Aleman
Writer

"Hello. Hey, over here. Yoo-hoo! Look at me."

Did I get your attention yet? If so, then thanks for taking the time to read this article (and hopefully the rest of this fine newspaper), but before we continue, let's look at the other alternatives you're choosing us over. You've got the television set, which, if you've got cable or (perhaps even and) has a channel or show dedicated to every hobby out there. And if said hobby isn't perhaps wholly legal, then it's either a documentary or special. When it comes to the news, in particular, you've got multiple channels committed to that. And if you don't like the facts Mr. Turner's network is putting out, then you can always flip to see facts Mr. Murdoch's team are screening. (I'd mention them, but no one really cares about NBC or who owns them).

And the Internet? Ha! Throw that into the mix, and I really don't know why you're reading us. I mean, legal or not, there are sure to be at least a couple dozen websites devoted to any craft of craze out there. And again, for those of you trying to keep up with what's going on around the globe, Mr. Turner and Murdoch have web sites to compliment their broadcasting counterparts.

And the really great thing about the World Wide Web is how fast it is. The sheer speed at which pretty much anything can be posted, uploaded, and spread is insane. Not only that, but like television, you get videos and pictures to help you understand what's going. And unlike us, their pictures are always in color (unless they're supposed to be in black and white because someone's camera sucks or it's for some sort of attempt to make it appear dramatic.). So why should you even bother to pick up a newspaper these days with so many other easily available and active alternatives?

To be quite honest, I'm actually not sure. There's almost nothing the competition can do that we can't.

Even if we've got masters of literature on our staff who can spin words around thread to craft magnificent prose, Internet writers can do that, too. Which is good, because at least we don't have to worry about any future Pulitzer Prize winners being turned down because of the death of composition (which isn't going to be happening any time soon).

And if you think about it environmentally, creating a weekly or even daily paper isn't even that great of an idea. All the paper and ink that go into producing a newspaper just doesn't seem to make sense when you consider how the Internet and television, aside from the computer and set itself don't physically require additional space to spread the word, it just doesn't seem to make sense to waste so many resources on periodicals. I mean, yeah, sure, power plants do generate pollution when they energize said computers and TV sets, but this fault also encompasses the modern printing presses as well. Then again, lots of things we don't do as humans and individuals don't make sense but we do them anyway.

The process will be slow, but the concept of a printed paper coming to one's doorstep will eventually fade away into one of the many humorous and outdated traditions of the past, like Milkmen, radio plays, 35mm film cameras, typewriters and telegrams. We're on our way out. We're dinosaurs, if you will. (Which is kind of cool; I've never thought of myself as dinosaur before).

But we're not like the Triceratops or the Tyrannosaurus Rex, we're like alligators or crocodiles. With the newer species of information being spewed out from technological evolution, we're around, but no one really cares. We'll just hold a little longer until the newer guys really get a feel for what they're doing. I just hope they drop that annoying habit of wasting time with stories about dead celebrities that never did anything or how pretty the

Letter to the editor

Brian Marks (12) writes about the school's banned book: Wallflower

Dear Spartana Editors and Staff,

A few weeks ago a friend of mine recommended a book to me: The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky. I was at first apprehensive about reading it; the novel is composed of a series of letters that give little formal introduction to the story, written to a recipient who is never named. Yet, despite its abrupt start, the novel quickly sucked me in.

Within an hour I had read a quarter of the book, and the next day I finished it in one marathon session. When I looked back on the novel as objectively as possible, I couldn't find many similarities between myself and the narrator (aside from being a wallflower). Somehow, though, the characters and situations spoke to me as if I had already lived them many times over.

I was surprised to read in the most recent issue of the Spartana that The Perks was the only banned book at Homestead. The novel includes scenes of drug use, teenage sexuality, and sexual abuse, yet advocates none of them. The main character's use of a hallucinogenic drug ends badly. The teenage sexuality is offset by a scene of rape while the sexual abuse is never described, only suggested. The book also includes homosexual characters, but including that as a reason for banning a book only shows ignorance.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower was banned due to the complaints of one parent incensed at its selection as a class assignment. Perhaps the novel should not be required reading in classes; it's conceivable that some students might not be mature enough to handle it. However, the novel should still be available in the school library for anyone interested. Many of the most important books of the 20th century include frank discussions of sexuality or drug use, yet they are available in the library.

It's unfortunate that we live in a society that finds it acceptable to make works of literature unavailable to 2,000 students in order to appease the whims of a single parent. I don't know if there are any steps a student can take to remove a book from the banned list, but I plan on finding out and acting. For the time being, The Perks of Being a Wallflower is still available in public libraries and book sellers. Check it out.

Brian Marks

Student publications: Why Woodlan won't happen here

To the right of this article you'll find what is perhaps the most liberal highschool student publications policy in this state. It's our policy, and the events of last February, when a Fort Wayne student's editorial resulted in the censorship of an entire paper, have reminded our staff just how lucky we are.

Last month, one of Meghan Chase's friends revealed to her that he was gay. Inspired, the Woodlan High School sophomore wrote a column advocating tolerance and questioning some widely-held beliefs about homosexuality for her student newspaper, The Tomahawk. While her column may have generated some buzz for tolerance, Woodlan Principal Edwin Yoder's reaction has garnered national headlines.

After reading the article, Yoder aims to tighten his grip on the school publication and he's requested to approve all future issues. The Tomahawk's advisor and staff are seeking help from the Student Press Law Center. A legal battle is set over who has the right to review what, when, and what is appropriate for highschoolers to read.

For those of you not acquainted with student journalism laws, what Yoder is requesting is called "prior review," and if he has his way, every word, every story, every headline, and every fact that will be printed in Woodlan's Tomahawk must be approved before it can be published.

If The Spartana were to uncover a gambling ring among a school-sponsored team, we'd write about it. If a junior drug dealer wished to speak to us about his life after drugs, we'd write about it. And if a writer on our staff wanted to speak out on homosexuality, we'd run that too. Most importantly, we'll run these stories unafraid of whose feathers we may ruffle. Unlike Woodlan High School, this school has a policy which protects student journalism, and we applaud our principal and administrators for continuing to defend it.

The Spartana is one of the few student publications in Indiana which is not reviewed by an administrator prior to publication. This paper's policy (see our staff box) assures that students will decide the content and that they will be aided only by the advisor of the publication.

This may seem like some unimportant legalspeak, but to our staff this policy is among our greatest assets. Because of our policy we can criticize our school, run stories on sexual education, speak our minds on controversial topics and uncover stories which some would rather never have printed. With our policy this publication may function as any other newspaper does, openly and freely.

Woodlan won't happen here because of the responsibility which this board knows it holds, the trust in the integrity of our writing that our principal has in us, and the communication between the editors, our advisor, and our principal.

What makes our system work in a way that Woodlan's did not is that communication is continually open between editors, our advisor, and administrators. For most controversial pieces we alert administrators about the stories we intend to run, but not all. Administrators trust our staff to maintain a bias-free publication, educating and enlightening students on a variety of issues.

That's not to say that we're beyond censoring. There may come a day when we will run a story that will infuriate those at the top, but so long as we're doing our job, that story will be as accurate and balanced as in any national publication. We have faith that while it may be answered with anger, it will not result in censorship.

Southwest Allen County School Board Policy 4150 regarding Student Publications

Student publications have been established for student expression. The purpose of these publications is to provide meaningful learning opportunities in journalism through responsible reporting, and to educate, enlighten, and entertain school and community readers.

The school corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues. Student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world even though their reports or editorials may be controversial, unpopular or critical of school affairs or officials. This policy does not attempt to control these student reports or editorials as they are within the students' right of expressive activity.

Material which meets the legal definition of libel or obscenity, or which would pose a real and substantial threat to the school's educational program, or which is vulgar by community standards shall not be published. AP style as employed by the Ft. Wayne newspapers is the guide for determining whether material is vulgar.

When a publication advisor becomes aware that the contemplated content of an article for one of these publications may violate the provisions of the previous paragraph, the advisor may consult with the building principal. The student staff can appeal any adverse decision promptly to the Superintendent.

Student journalists should cover all aspects of a topic accurately and treat sources fairly and respectfully. Each publication staff should develop and publicize its editorial policy, which should establish procedures for the expression of opposing views, for the correction of errors, and the handling of complaints with regard to content.

(Revised: 5/15/91; 10/15/96; 9/21/04.)

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Joe Salisbury	Lee Farnsworth
Kylia Robrock	Emma Farnsworth
Patrick Kay	Greg Kyes
Brad Lufkin	Phil Aleman
Haley Zimmerman	Mat Mikesell
Kara Hackett	

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

page 4A
issue 10 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

life

Keep in Step

Brittany Neal (11) and Udim Isang (12) lead the step team through the moves. See page 6A.

Friday, March 9, 2007

Debt looms for college grads

By David Greco
Writer

High school can be a stepping-stone for many students; some decide to go into the military service, others go into the workforce, and others go on to higher education. While many students who plan on attending college do so to enter a better job market and earn a professional degree, the costs can often be overlooked.

College is advertised as a place where students can increase their future income, it can also be a place that will drive them deep into financial crisis. An escalating problem – shown by new data to be worsening each generation - is debt due to student loans and credit cards.

According to Tamar Snyder's article in MSN News, average debt has risen more than 50 percent, with graduates in student loan debt of $23,600 and credit debt of around $2,000.

In a recent article by WISH-TV.com, a local news station for Indianapolis, "the average Indiana college student graduates with a diploma and a $20,000 debt."

But those who are money smart advise students to plan ahead to avoid debt.

"Before students choose a college, they should look at the average income of the career path they plan on taking," Susan Summers, economics teacher, said.

Both the federal government and local banks provide loans for students entering college.

"If a student gets a loan, they should get a government loan as opposed to a bank loan," Summers said.

Summers warns against bank loans because loans from the federal government are subsidized so that interest does not accumulate until after the student graduates.

Another way for students to help lower the cost of college is to get a job.

"I plan on getting a campus job and spending my money carefully so that I won't have to deal with debt issues after college," Ally Uhey (12) said.

A student's employment at various jobs, in addition to work-study programs, can help ease the burden of debt. Work-study is a program supported by the federal government to help get students employed. This in turn helps the community as well as provides a way for students to pay some of the difference in their college tuition.

One other way that students fight off any debt they might have is with scholarships and grants. While scholarships are merit-based, grants are provided by state and federal governments as well as private universities.

Still, students realize that paying their way through college - and coming out on top - won't be easy.

"Any debt I might have after college, I'll work off with my future career," Stephania Turkette (12) said.

Yearly Tuition (for Indiana residents)

Indiana University - $7,460
Purdue University - $7,096
Ball State - $6,810
IPFW - $6,041
IUPUI - $6,524
Notre Dame - $33,407
University of Michigan - $29,131
Michigan State - $21,438
Source: collegeboard.com

CLUB BRIEFS

POETRY OUT LOUD

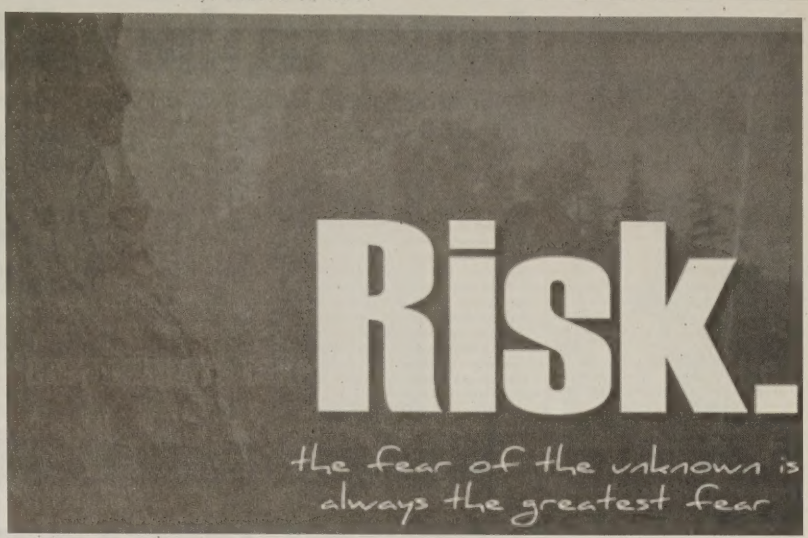
Emma Farnsworth (12) and Greg Kyes-Myland (11) will travel to Indianapolis tomorrow to participate in the state level of the Poetry Out Loud contest. Because of a lack of participants they did not have to perform at the regional level to qualify. Should either of them win the state competition, they will receive an all-expenses paid trip to nationals in Washington D.C. where contestants will have an chance to win $10,000.

DANCE MARATHON

Dance Marathon celebrated its 25th anniversary Feb. 24 and 25 in the auxiliary gym. Groups of students were required to raise $350 to gain admission to the marathon where they danced all night. This year the marathon raised a new record of more than $40,000. The money will be dispersed through the Athletic Booster's Club.

GUIDANCE

Freshmen: guidance counselors will being finalizing four year plans this Monday. Students should bring their updated blue plan sheets to seminar. Students who do not have seminar should make an appointment in the Academy office.



Project Excel scholarship gives students creative outlets

By Kara Hackett
Writer

Through art, film, or writing, Project Excel is a scholarship competition that gives students a chance to break out of the normal and express themselves, using their unique artistic interests to fuel their success. The competition has been sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance for the past 18 years, giving students the opportunity to compete as authors, artists, poets, musicians, filmmakers, and performers.

Project Excel is open to all Indiana students, including private school and home school students. There is no limit to the number of entries a high school may submit, nor is there a limit to the number of entries an individual student may submit. Students may submit more than one entry per category; unfortunately, only one entry per category will advance to state finals. Students may work independently or in a group, but only three students per entry are eligible for awards and prize money.

This year's topic is "risk." Students are challenged to creatively present the topic in whichever category they select, communicating a message to their peers. The scholarship also allows students to gain experience in new fields and continue their interest in current hobbies.

"I have been acting since first grade…but it was my first film performance. It was a new experience," Allie Kronberg (10) said, who acted in Homestead student Chris Purdy's (12) film entry. Purdy, director and editor of the film, has competed in Project Excel for the past two years.

"The video section is the biggest part [of the competition]. I'm planning on studying film in college, and I want to be a film maker,"

The movie, *Scare the Clouds*, is the story of a man with a severe case of obsessive compulsive disorder, played by Greg Kyes-Myland (11), who must choose whether or not to receive the treatment he desires at the risk of losing vital brain functions.

> *"I thought it would be a great opportunity just to get our idea out there.... It was our first really big event to really get recognition for composing."*
>
> **Nate Haffner (12)**
> Project Excel entrant

"Greg's character … must decide whether it is worth it to go through intensive medical treatment with the possibility of becoming a vegetable," Purdy said.

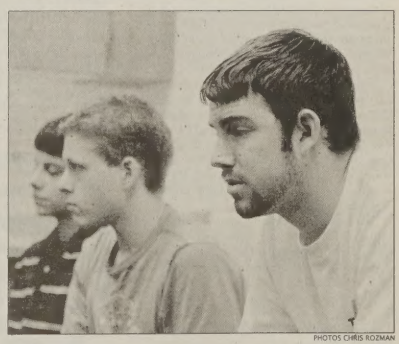
Nate Haffner (12) and Mike Peck (12) submitted a piano duet to Project Excel. The music, based of their Variety Show performance from last spring, is called "Dancing on Thin Ice; Approaching Solid Ground" and had to be cut from eight minutes to just five.

"Mike brought it up to me," Haffner said. "I thought it would be a great opportunity just to get our idea out there. The variety show was fun, but this was really different because it was a competition and I felt like it was our first really big event to really get recognition for composing."

Winners of the first round of the contest will be announced on March 9, second round winners will find out on March 16, and the final round will be announced March 23. These students will be designated as Excel Awards State Finalists, with a first place prize of $3,000. Second and third place winners receive $2,500 and $2,000 respectively. State competitors will travel to the University of Indianapolis on April 14 for the final competition. State finalists will once again compete in four rounds of judging, and the winners will receive scholarship awards at the Indiana State Museum.

Last year's competition hosted 6,800 students from 286 schools, doling out $68,500 in scholarship awards. Students entering the competition this year can except similar awards.

"I'll turn it into quarters," Haffner said of the prize money. "And bathe in it."



PHOTOS CHRIS ROZMAN

Left: Kirsten Wehling (9) talks with her group of freshman in peer mentoring. Right: Nate James (11) mentors a group of freshman students.

Peer mentors take freshmen through the ropes

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

Muddling through the halls of high school is no easy feat, and hearing advice from a teacher isn't as helpful as seeking out a friend. With student service's Spartan Mentor Program, freshmen get a chance to talk to upperclassmen one on one and in groups. Although the program was first introduced three years ago, it took a year of planning before peer mentoring could get underway.

"After freshman orientation we took a poll to see what the freshman thought was the most helpful part of the whole day," counselor Brian Dobias said. "After all of our planning of the lunch, and tours, and special speakers, we found out they liked talking to the upperclassmen the most. It was something we felt we should start doing on a regular basis."

Dobias, along with Academy counselors Christina Davis and Ryan George, oversee the program. Beginning the first year with 20 mentors and 100 freshman, the program has grown to this year with 60 mentors and over 420 freshman.

"Being a mentor requires a lot of responsibility, but it's a lot of fun," Erica Merrifield (12) said.

The program takes one period of the day and provides one credit per year. On Mondays, Dobias meets with the mentors to have a class where students discuss to review the topics that will be presented during group mentoring that week.

Tuesday is the planning and preparing day for the mentors, giving students time to plan everything from games to how to approach topics of discussion.

Wednesdays and Thursdays the mentors go to the Academy to meet with their groups of freshman. Friday is a reflection day, and about every two weeks a paper is due on a mentor's progress.

The groups that the mentors meet with are made up of about ten randomly chosen freshman.

"My group had cheerleaders, skaters, smart kids, all different cliques; it was fun seeing that even though we don't hang out, we all go through the same stuff. I made a lot of new friendships through my group," Elena Shmidt (9) said.

The topics discussed can vary anywhere from study skills, to decision making, and to finding a part-time job. The mentors are all trained on the topics with help from weekly in-class meetings, a once a month evening training session, and a summer trip to DePauw.

"The trip to DePauw is a lot of fun; it's for three days over the summer and we stay in the dorms. A lot of my friends are in the program so we were all together," David Blake (12) said.

The mentors first receive lectures over a topic, then they have team competitions to reinforce what they just heard.

"We try to make it fun learning, because it is hard being stuck in a room in the middle of July listening to someone talk. Knowing there is a game after, students listen well, not wanting to let their team down later," Dobias said.

Sophomores and juniors can apply for a mentor position for the following year. All mentors must have a positive attitude, be willing to help others, and pass all their classes. Applications are found in student services, and must be completed with a teacher or counselor reference. A group interview with the program directors is mandatory.

"I think people should join because you get lots of good food and have fun while getting to be a good role model," Blake said.

"I think this program is so beneficial to all of the students involved," Dobias said. "It helps make many connections that can last a long time, and may have not been formed otherwise. Students helping other students is one of the best outreach opportunities."

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Emma: "love in the time of 'Cholera'" for a little brother

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

While I trot across the parking lot at 7:48 (I can't run with my heels and cumbersome bag), I plan sympathetic excuses in case I am late.

There is no clock in the cruelly empty wall panel by the choir room, so I have to judge my remaining time by the number of couples who remain hugging in the hall (these people must have impeccable internal clocks, because I never see them dashing to class). If the puddle of swimmers in the front commons has not yet dispersed, I'm in good shape. Nobody cares why I am tardy, but I like to have an entertaining story, if only to amuse myself:

"I am late today but I don't care: the sky was beautiful and the air had the cool, damp feeling of near spring."

"Please excuse my overdue arrival – I tripped in the parking lot and twisted my ankle."

"The teacher I had to visit has a sub and this sub does not believe in writing passes because she wants to make a point about saving trees."

"I am tardy because my brother takes 20 minutes to brush his teeth."

"Just running late today, Emma?" Mr. Schmidt asks as he marks my third tardy of the semester.

"Mmmyeah."

Today I had a really good, legitimate excuse: "My brother is violently ill and has to go to the hospital, and in the anxious atmosphere of my household I lost track of time as I hurriedly helped to fetch new receptacles for his copious spewage." Also I forgot my Latin homework. And my stats book.

Even though I wasn't late this morning, I somehow found it necessary to tell everyone in my classes about my brother's brave battle against an unidentified bacterium. Like a braggart first-grader on the playground, I was the proud owner of a dramatic, disgusting story. Poor Lee, retching loudly as he fought the effects of bad taco! Will he survive?

Upstairs getting ready for school, my sister and I imagined Lee's situation as the premise of a *House* episode.

Cuddy: "The patient is a 16-year-old boy, losing fluids fast."

House: "Get a culture. Test for E.coli. And you're boring me with Barf Boy…why?"

"Poor Lee, retching loudly as he fought the effects of bad taco! Will he survive?"

Emma Farnsworth
Writer

Cuddy: "He was already tested. Negative. Here's the part I thought might intrigue you: the ER doctors think…he may not be human."

Crescendo thumping music, segue into commercial. However, if this were *House*, Lee would have to advance to near-death within the day for thematic effect – but, on the plus side, I'd get the chance to have Hugh Laurie berate me for lying.

In fact, Lee's condition was similar to another scenario involving a sexy, sarcastic doctor: he could have been one of the cholera victims in *The Painted Veil*. I saw the movie this weekend and wondered why it wasn't nominated for a best picture Oscar. The cast is exceptional – even the smallest characters have depth – and the breathtaking cinematography and haunting piano music perfectly convey the isolation and mysterious, misty beauty of 1920's China.

Edward Norton is perfectly understated as the noble bacteriologist Dr. Walter Fane who takes his unfaithful wife Kitty (Naomi Watts) to a remote village plagued by a cholera epidemic. It's a lovely yet non-traditional romance, a story of self-discovery and redemption. And it involves a lot of violently ill people losing all the fluid in their bodies within 36 hours.

Luckily, all Lee needed was a saline drip at Lutheran and rest in front of the golf channel. I knew he probably would turn out to be okay, but I was still pretty worried about my brother's well being. I was surprised by how much I wanted other people to care about Lee's condition, and wished that he actually kept his cell phone on so I could text him from school.

Lee annoys me, frustrates me, and makes me late for first period, but he's a pretty cool brother. I like sharing two periods a day with him, even though he's good at curtly calling attention to my flaws (especially my parking skills).

He has a great sense of humor, loves to argue, and, when he's not too cool to talk to his "attention-craving" sister, he's my best friend at Homestead.

So I'm glad he doesn't have cholera, because if I didn't have Lee, who would be my dependable ally, my favorite conversationalist? Who would Lily and I watch *House* with? Who would make sure I didn't hit your car?

Mock Trial lands in fifth place

Students interested in law present their case at competition

By Kara Busse
Writer

While some clubs offered after school pick up a new hobby, others aim at the professional world that looms ahead for high school students. The mock trial club gives students a chance to experience the act of prosecuting and cross examining witnesses as an attorney. The club's largest competition is behind them, and members came away with a fifth place finish, just short of the third needed to advance to state.

This year's team was made up of Puja Parikh (12), Kara Wall (12), David Greco (11), Duncan Rodman (11), Ian Strelec (11), and Joel Hutt (10).

After weeks of preparation, students headed to South Bend for the competition on Feb 24. Members are given a made up case with six witness statements, a case background, stipulations, exhibits, and federal rules. The team must then analyze an extensive amount of evidence for the one fictional court case. The group's attorneys and witnesses both had to work at displaying the most compelling case, either defense or prosecution.

The attorney is to dig up as much incriminating information from the opposing team's witness as possible, and extract the most efficient information from their own team.

And just like in federal and local courts, certain questions can be ruled as objectionable. Attorney's in mock trial can use the same method to block questions from being asked in court.

"The club requires work, and if people are looking to join, they better be devoted to it," Hutt said. "The attorneys work on their questions for their witnesses while the witnesses work on memorizing their witness statements and the answers to the attorney's questions."

Although the competition was a little stressful because of the team's late start, students still managed to make the best of it.

During club meetings, the group mainly practiced their speeches, questions, and cross-examinations to prepare for the competition.

In the future, the members plan to carry on the club and make sure it doesn't fail after it was founded last year. The club hopes to increase student interest. With a close run this year - just two places from making the state competition - the team looks forward to improving.

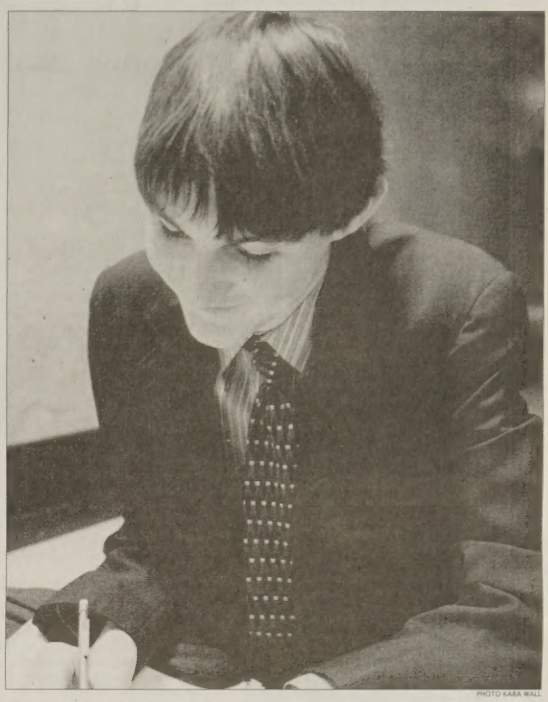


PHOTO KARA WALL

Joel Hutt (11) works on his case for the competition held on Feb 24. The team landed in fifth place.

"This was actually my first year of doing it, and I have to say, I enjoyed it," Rodman said. "The preparation seemed a bit mundane and grueling after school, but the outcome was well worth it. I have definitely set my eyes on being an attorney for the team next year."

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: **Legalization of Marijuana**

Marijuana: the addictive "gateway" drug, or a medicinal drug and another way to relax and socialize?

Kyler Roush

I think that it should stay as an illegal drug, because when you smoke it you get high. When you're high your reflexes and your reaction time go down the drain.

Now yes, with alcohol, [alcohol] impairs you, too, but not to the extent that pot does.

Now to the argue as to whether or not [marijuana should] be used for medicinal purposes, I say yes, but only in extreme cases and then with that they shouldn't be able to drive.

If pot was legalized much more money would then start flowing into the Central and South American countries, but not to the government - it would go to the criminal organizations.

Drew Alger

Maybe. Other countries in Europe have lax laws on marijuana use, and they are in a much better place than the United States is now. There is just something about the United States, as if we're immature and won't be able to handle the "greater responsibility" of legalization of marijuana.

Looking at the state of political and social maturity among the youth of today, I'd say marijuana, at the very least, should be available only to those over 21.

Most people my age can't handle the simple responsibilities - or rather privileges - handed to them, such as keeping up on schoolwork and working to further one's knowledge.

Not everyone who is planning on going to Indiana University, getting drunk all day, and just getting by with a bachelors is going to make the cut.

I do like the coffee shop sort of deal the folks in the Netherlands have going on. It surely leads to a more responsible consumption of a rather benign drug, I believe.

It's only when this drug is combined with the great amount of stupidity and irresponsibility some people seem to have does this drug become dangerous.

Spencier Lehman

People against [marijuana legalization] might say things like, "if you start with legalizing marijuana what's gonna stop you from wanting to legalize cocaine or meth?"

But its completely different. Those drugs are so much harder and damaging, not to mention extremely addicting.

If you think about it really, how stupid is it to get people in trouble for smoking pot and locking them up when we have people running around shooting each other and commited crimes far worse?

If the worst thing someone ever does is smoke pot, but still has their life on track, and does well....should you really be able to punish them for something so little like that?

Andrew Slayton

I think that marijuana should be legalized. When people use it, it's only harming themselves. I still think it to be a bad choice, just as I believe smoking is a bad choice, but it should be anyone's decision. The government can't save us from ourselves. Let us make our own decisions, whether their good or bad; it isn't harming anyone but ourselves.

Nathan Fisher

Absolutely.

Less intoxicating than alcohol, less carcinogenic than tobacco, and less addictive than caffeine.

Also, the fact that it is public consensus that tobacco and alcohol are detrimental to [a person's] health but marijuana still has to be debated should prove, just logically, that it's less of a risk.

Tired of hearing the same people speak out? Join the Controversy group on Facebook and give us your opinions.

the Spartana on Facebook.
We'll confirm you, guaranteed.

KEEPING IN STEP

By Taylor Harruff
Writer

With a clap, stomp, and some loud music, the ladies of the Homestead Step club owned the court at the Elmhurst home basketball game a few weeks ago. Step dancing brings raised eyebrows at the first mention, but the club's performance showed dedication to an art that is largely unheard of. Next week the club will perform at the Variety Show, bringing the dance style from the movie scene to the Homestead stage.

"Not being well known isn't that big of deal," team captain Udim Isang (12) said. "We're able to dance, I love dancing, that's all I do."

Step dancing involves creating a beat with your arms, hands, legs, and feet. The ladies have been trying for over two years to create a step team, but due to little involvement, interest, and support, the girls have been unable to see their ideas take shape until now.

With no specific facilities for practicing, much like the other sports at Homestead, the group must be labeled as a "club" for an extended period of time before they can be approved as a team.

Like all other sports, the club practices during the week. On Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m., as well as Saturdays from 12:00-2:00 p.m., the girls practice in the dance room at the local YMCA. During their practices, the dancers typically focus on warming up, perfecting their current routine, and then sharing new ideas and steps to go along with the routine. Co-captains Isang and Brittany Neal (11) lead their fellow dancers during practice..

"The practices get pretty intense," Whitney Washington (10) said. "But we also goof around a lot, it's pretty funny."

They have no pre- choreographed routine; all of the material they perform is original.

"If you think of something and it works nicely then we add it the routine," Washington said. The squad is coached by one of the member's mother, who is there to overlook and do her best to help with running the practices.

While the future for the club is uncertain, each member has high hopes that step team will continue progress as time goes on.

"I would like to continue throughout high school," Washington said. "Right now it's just a one year thing."

Although the club doesn't get the title of 'team' yet, the group of girls relies on each other much the same.

"Each girl adds a different vibe to the team," Neal said. "Everyone has their place and does something for the benefit of the program."

Individuality among the group is expressed in their uniforms; each member performs in a simple black tank top along with vivid white pants. Up the leg of their pants, each girl has a unique nickname.

"Our outfits are pretty tight, you can't lie about that," Washington said.

While step club mostly performs at the home basketball games, upcoming performances include a show at Indiana Tech. on Mar. 25 alongside college teams and other local high school clubs. The club also has a possible show at spring arts week scheduled, and tentative plans to perform at Lafayette Meadows and Woodside Middle school. Their next performance will be at the Variety Show next Wednesday. The girls hope that other students aren't discouraged by the different dancing style.

"Stepping is for everyone regardless of age, size, or gender," Neal said.

Top: Captains Brittany Neal (11) and Udim Isang (12) lead members of the step team at the Elmhurst basketball game. Look for the step team at the Variety Show on Wednesday, Mar. 15, where the girls will showcase their moves on stage.

Show choirs compete, prepare for Classic Showcase

By Megan Miller
Writer

Glitter, makeup, shoes, dresses, suits, and hair. All these things go into the preparation for any show choir competition. But when Homestead host choirs from across the Midwest, all the preparations will go into making sure the Elite and Class Royale are ready for the competition.

On Saturday, Mar. 17, show choirs will begin to arrive early in the morning; at 5:30 a.m. and it ends the next day at a 1:00 a.m.

"It's a lot of competing, but it's a really fun day," Katelyn Samuels (11) said.

Both Elite, the all-girls choir, and Class Royale, the mixed choir, competed at Norwell on Feb. 10, and placed fourth. They also competed at Franklin Central on Feb. 24, but were unable to place due to the wintry weather that forced the choirs to head back to Ft. Wayne.

"We didn't get to stay at Franklin Central because of the snow so we couldn't place," Alex Tordi (11) said.

This past weekend, the choirs headed to Carroll where they were in high hopes for a win. Class Royale sang and danced their way to first place runner up, behind Huntington North.

"This was by far our best show and placement yet," Dr. Keith Touchton, the choirs' director, said. Elite placed fourth at Carroll, with their choreography taking second. The back up band, Anonymous Blue, placed first for their music for Elite.

"The finale is probably the strongest part of our show because it really shows everything we've been working on," Katelyn Samuels (11) said.

Class Royale's show is described as having a Broadway feel to it. The routine includes the songs "It's My Life," "Let's Misbehave," Everybody Says Don't," and "Don't Rain on My Parade."

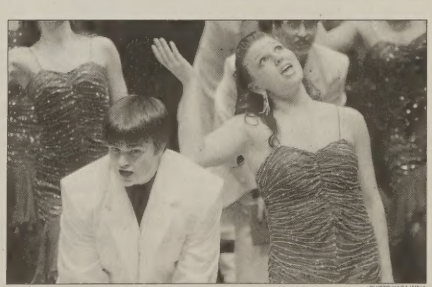
During "Let's Misbehave," the choir members uses books to portray a classroom setting and the students act up behind the teacher's back.

"Performing "Misbehave" is just really funny for the audience and fun to perform," Shannon Olbin (11) said.

Recent Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) winners in vocals include choir members Meg Warner (12), Julia Springer (12), Kimi Holmes (10), Morgan Zirzow (9), Nick Jewson (10), Courtney Blosser (9), and Jessica Bush (10).

This weekend, Class Royale and Elite head to Huntington High School in Huntington, Indiana where they will perform for the last time before the Classic Showcase.

PHOTO KARA WALL



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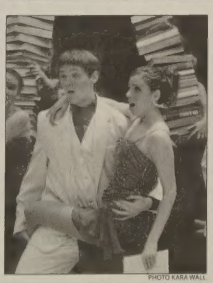

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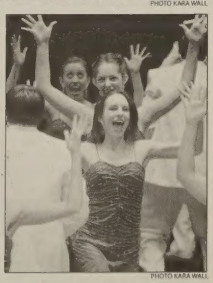


PHOTO KARA WALL

Clockwise from Left: Ally Vaillancourt (12) preforms in "Lets Misbehave" at Cabaret Night. Colin Hunter (11) and Meg Warner (12) put energy into their song and dance routine. Jenna Clark (10) dances along with other choir members. Alex Tordi (11) and Lauren Thurber (12) misbehave.

filmreviews

by Chris Purdy

Zodiac

Zodiac is the first would-be great movie of the year. I say that because in many parts, namely the stylish opening scenes, it feels like a complete winner. David Fincher truly is a master director. He lets us know it, and he definitely does not let us forget it. Just watch for his highly cinematic transitions and brief moments of inspired brilliance behind the camera, and you'll know what I mean.

The movie really had a lot of potential to be an instant classic. Unfortunately, though the film is well acted, meticulously detailed, and remarkably well shot, at almost three hours, it is much too long.

It is the second and more superior film made about the elusive serial killer in the past couple years and is based on the book of the same name written by Robert Graysmith. The film itself is also actually centered on Graysmith, who, at the time in 1969, was a cartoonist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. After a sweeping long shot of the city at night, followed by a chilling murder scene, the film opens in the newsroom, where the editor receives his first Zodiac letter.

Toying with reporters and investigators alike, the Zodiac killer openly admits to the murders, even giving small details about the weapons used, etc. He also includes a cypher code that reveals a sadistic message regarding the killer's passion for murder. The Zodiac also creates quite a scare when he threatens to disable a school bus and kill the children with a high-powered rifle as they come out.

As more murders take place, and more letters are sent to the various publications, the investigation grows into a massive statewide manhunt.

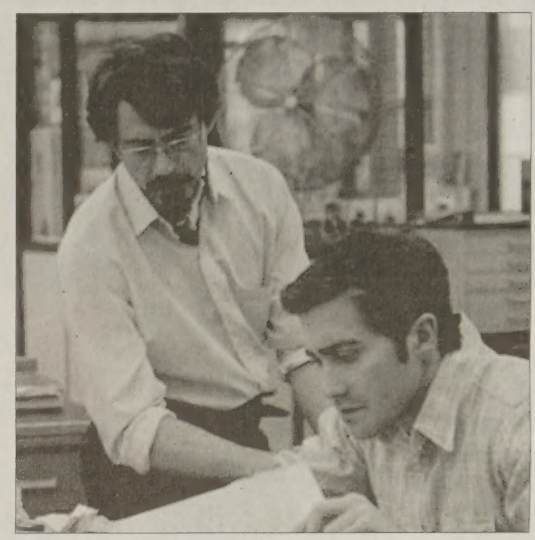
Robert Graysmith (Jake Gyllenhaal) may just be a humble cartoonist, but he knows all about breaking codes. Inspectors David Toschi (Mark Ruffalo) and William Armstrong (Anthony Edwards), as well as journalist Paul Avery (Robert Downey Jr.), are already hot on the trail, but Graysmith is the first to realize that the man has no real pattern and is leading everyone in circles.

By the middle of the movie, this is actually how I felt, too. Fincher still manages to keep the tension, but going back and forth between suspects, fingerprints, and handwriting samples for well over an hour just wore me thin. I eventually felt just like the detectives: I cared, but just wanted it to end. I, like them, was wondering why Graysmith was wasting his life on this obsession when everyone else had given up so long ago. After all, the film covers a huge period, ranging from 1968 to 1991.

Perhaps that's the point, though, to get the audience excited for something fresh and shocking, only to leave them feeling as worn out as the detectives do by the end. They just left everything up to Graysmith, and we want to do the same, especially when you know that even today the cases remain unsolved.

Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr., directed by David Fincher.

Purdy's Rating: ★★★



Robert Downey Jr and Jake Gyllenhaal star in the murder mystery, *Zodiac*. Photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

Breach

Chris Cooper is the man. Few actors have the ability to single-handedly save an entire film, but he manages to do just that with one of his best performances to date. *Breach*, based on a true story, is touted as being about "the biggest security breach in U.S. history."

At first, the story has a hard time convincing the viewer that anything is at stake. Granted, in real life, it probably was the most disastrous intelligence breach in U.S. history, but in the context of the film, there isn't really a clear-cut idea of how devastating the treason was. In fact, aside from a few hazy flashbacks to the Cold War, this film is not even about the breach itself. Instead, it follows the story of FBI agent-in-training Eric O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe), who is assigned to become the assistant for Agent Robert Hanssen (Chris Cooper) and essentially spy on him for the Bureau. O'Neill's superior, Agent Kate Burroughs (Laura Linney), tells him that Hanssen is suspected of being a sexual deviant, something that reflects poorly on the organization.

But as Eric sees day that the man is a God-fearing patriot, he questions his assignment and even begins to respect him. He cannot imagine the accusations being true. It is then that Agent Burroughs reveals the truth of the investigation: Hanssen has been selling secrets to the Russians for almost 15 years. He is a traitor, and the agency needs O'Neill to gain Hanssen's trust and catch him in the act of treason.

In spite of some minor gripes, this is a good, gripping film and I recommend it. Without Cooper, though, *Breach* is only a competent spy thriller and not a great deal more than that. But very time Cooper is on screen, he elevates the quality of the film vastly. He creates a unique and very real villain who is both easy to have sympathy for and easy to despise. Hanssen can detect the slightest of lies, and constantly plays mind games with O'Neill to keep him on edge.

Laura Linney is also terrific, as usual, but we don't see enough of her. The weakest link here is Ryan Phillippe. He is by no means awful, but he cannot hold his own in a leading role against an actor of such high caliber. His acting is at times obvious, and we can see him struggling to be the primary force in front of the camera.

Still, the film on most levels is a success. Cooper's snake-like character is so good, perhaps Oscar-worthy good, that you are kept on the edge of your seat pretty much throughout.

Starring Chris Cooper, Ryan Phillippe, and Laura Linney.

Purdy's Rating: ★★★

Rave Listings

For Friday Mar. 9 and Saturday Mar. 10

300 - 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30
Amazing Grace - 1:35, 4:15, 7:05
Because I Said So - 4:05, 9:40
Black Snake Moan - 4:25, 7:20, 10:05
Breach - 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
Bridge to Terebithia - 2:00, 4:40, 7:45, 10:10
Ghost Rider - 1:55, 3:00, 5:15, 8:05, 10:40
Music and Lyrics - 2:10, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55
The Messengers - 1:55, 4:10, 8:15, 10:35
The Number 23 - 2:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Reno 911! Miami - 2:50, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05
The Ultimate Gift - 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Wild Hogs - 1:50, 2:45, 4:10, 5:20, 7:10, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45
Zodiac - 1:45, 5:10, 8:35, 9:50

sudoku bookreview

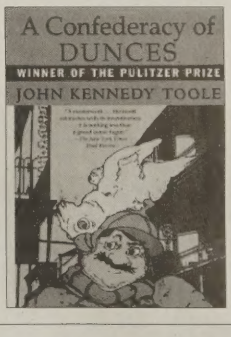
		8			5		2	
	7							
	3		9			4		8
				9		2		1
	9	1	2		6	5	4	
3		7		5				
7		4			2		1	
							8	
	5		8			6		

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

Confederacy of Dunces

by John Kennedy Toole

The goofy cover - bright yellows, blues, and greens splashed onto the grotesquely obese man - is the first thing a book hunter notices. The second thing is that the book won the author the Pulitzer Prize (posthumously, as the author wasn't even considered until years after his death).



It's too bad the author is gone, because the pages that lie underneath the fat man are funny, witty, and filled with dialogue that is both natural and hysterically entertaining to read through.

The story centers around one aforementioned fat man named Ignatius J. Reilly who is, essentially, completely against all mankind and everything it stands for. He hates society, buses, work, and almost every individual in the world. The one thing he does appreciate is the food, and lots of it.

When Ignatius and his mother (whom he loathes) get into a spot of trouble, Ignatius is forced to find a job in order to support his mother and keep them both out of jail.

In between relaying his terrifying experience on a Greyhound bus to anyone who has ears and writing his life story down on steno pads hidden under his messy bed, Ignatius stumbles through the low paying jobs in New Orleans.

A hot-dog vendor turns out to be the wrong occupation for Ignatius, partly because he scares the customers and partly because he eats the food. Working at the Levy Pant's Company results in a worker uprising and the end of another job.

In the meantime his mother is bowling every few nights with the cop who has made himself a nuisance to Ignatius. His mother, after much pressure from her loud-mouth friend, decides that Ignatius would be better locked away in an asylum.

But before Ignatius is taken away, his luck finally comes into play and all is relatively well in his dramatic world. The best part about Ignatius is that he's totally unbelievable, from everything from his clothes to the way he speaks (an almost modern Shakespearean dialect that is completely out of place in New Orleans).

Through his complete hatred for everything and his over-the-top way of going about the most mundane chores and daily tasks, Ignatius' character creates a satirical story where everyone is disconnected.

In a time where everyone is more alone than ever, interacting more with computerized gadgets than with people, the novel rings true as an anthem to everyone in an isolated world.

musicreview

by Greg Kyes-Myland

With a few exceptions, my musical tastes have evolved quite a bit over the years. Perhaps the biggest change has been the acquisition of my taste for rap music. If you told me four years ago that I would one day appreciate rap music, I probably would have tried to bust a cap up in your grill. Anyway, you can't spell "crap" without "rap" right?

Wrong.

Believe it or not, there is rap music so thought provoking it will make you spin right around in your big white tee. Let's be clear though, I'm not talking about 50 Cent or Lil' John. Leave that stuff at the club with your pimp juice. I'm talking about the severely under recognized independent rap or "indy rap" genre. I'm talking about groups like Jedi Mind Tricks.

When the combination of Vinnie Paz and Kevin Baldwin formed Jedi Mind Tricks in 1996, they hit the streets of Philadelphia with an edgy, intense passion.

That intensity has only grown through the years and into their latest release *Servants in Heaven, Kings in Hell* (September 2006).

Vinnie Paz has always interspersed political statements into his rhymes, but has usually chosen to focus more on his person struggles and anger. *Servants in Heaven, Kings in Hell*, however, is by far the most socially conscious and critical album the group has released. The album takes absolutely no prisoners, attacking just about every aspect of politics and social views.

Servants in Heaven, Kings in Hell is also the best-produced album Jedi Mind Tricks has released to date. The mix is top-notch and all aspects of the music are clear and defined. The mix of strong hollow beats and classical string sections (signature of Jedi Mind Tricks tracks) provide for a very unique sound, accenting the fiery emotion that Paz conveys through his rhymes.

The 16 track album contains only minimal flaws, but also holds a couple of the best rap tracks I've ever heard. The fourth song on the album, "Uncommon Valor: A Vietnam Story" gives me goose bumps every time I listen to it. The song describes the true story of soldier in the Vietnam War. The song begins by criticizing the conflict in general: "They say were stopping Chinese expansion, but I ain't seen no Chinese since we landed. My mother wrote me said the president he doesn't care, we're trying to leave the footprints of America here."

It continues by describing the cost of war through the individual's personal loss: "I escaped the war, came back. But ain't escaped Agent Orange, two of my kids born handicapped, spastic, quadriplegic, cerebral palsy, you name it they had it."

Jedi Mind Tricks also confronts the horrors of sweatshops in the album's tenth track, "Shadow Business." The song makes a powerful statement using interview clips inserted between the verses, along with a strong chorus asking the questions, "Is life worth living if your living in hell? When the mind is confined to a prisoner's cell?"

Paz also reveals a more inspirational subject in track twelve, "Razorblade Salvation," in which he discusses the value of life and the decision to continue living in the face of depression and suicide.

Make no mistake; Jedi Mind Tricks is not for everybody. In fact, if you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or involved at all in the political system, you will probably take offense to at least something these guys say.

But let's be honest - is there really any music that is for everybody? If you are a rap music connoisseur and are looking for something fresh that stands apart from the main stream hip-hop, look no further.

And if you are someone who is convinced that rap is nothing more than meaningless trash from the streets, I beg you to come out of your shell and open your ears to a group like Jedi Mind Tricks.

For the sixth year in a row the varsity dance team is number one in the lyrical division of state competition.

DANCE TAKES STATE

Continued from page 1A

In the junior solo events, Aleman placed second and Shelby Padgett (10) placed sixth. Dancing in the senior solo events were Kelley Strothmann (12), Natalie Wray (11), and Cutaia, placing third, sixth, and tenth, respectively.

The next step for the girls will be to travel to Orlando, Florida to participate in a national competition held at MGM Studios. The team has won the competition the past two years.

The performance of her life

Surrounded by her teammates, coaches, and friends and family, Holly Thompson (12) tearfully accepted the first-place award for her performance in the senior solo competition last Saturday. The moment was emotional for everyone involved, as teammates shared jubilant hugs and tears with the victorious Thompson, who was shocked by the outcome.

"Holy cow. You have got to be kidding me," Holly Thompson thought after the win was announced.

Thompson readily admitted that the win came with a price. She has dealt with numerous conflicts and problems in the past two years, but vowed to start anew. She felt this win was a testament to her changed lifestyle.

"My family moved away to Kentucky, and things just weren't going very well. I didn't want to leave Homestead my senior year, so Lindsey Baker and her family, being the nice people they are, decided to let me live with them," Thompson said. "I really wanted to change my life for the better and be able to stay on the dance team."

Prior to State, Thompson practiced long and hard to perfect her solo performance to "The Real Me" by Natalie Grant. She made up her dance in the Baker's garage in just a few days, practicing non-stop.

"I decided to pick 'The Real Me' because it fits me perfectly. I have gone through many positive changes lately, and after this performance I think I have shown people the real me," Thompson said.

Once Thompson completed her performance, she was able to smile with confidence and happiness, knowing she put together a great performance.

"When I came off the floor, I knew that I had left my heart and soul out there for everyone to see," Thompson said.

Tensions were high at the awards ceremony as the girls awaited the results of the senior solo competition.

"During awards we were clenching each other's arms. The minute they announced a girl from Penn as second, I started bawling and threw my arms around Holly. I was so proud of her because she deserved it the most. She's my best friend, and I love her to death," Acquaro said.

" I was so excited. I honestly didn't think I was going to win. I thought I was going to get second," Thompson said.

Thompson dedicated her win to her "two families."

"I dedicated it to my papa, mom, dad, and sister. I also dedicated to the Baker family because if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't even be here right now," Thompson said.

Dance coach Jen Bay was also very proud of Thompson's accomplishment.

"She did an amazing job at State and was determined to go out there and do her very best. It was a great way to end her senior year of competition," Bay said.

Despite her recent hardship, Thompson said her victory at State uplifted her in a way nothing had been able to do in a long while.

"I was so glad," Thompson said. "It was the best thing that has happened to me in a very long time."

Top: Dancers react as they are announced champions of the lyrical division. Second down: Holly Thompson (12) is hugged after her solo victory. Third down: Kelley Strothmann (11) during her solo routine. Fourth down: The dance team performs their lyrical routine. Above: Thompson strikes a pose during her winning senior solo routine. Above right: Lindsay Baker (12) hugs a teammate prior to the event. Right: Natalie Wray (11) stretches out during a solo routine.

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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

One and done

Boys basketball team loses first-round sectional game to Snider, 56-51. Coach Johnson reflects on season on page 2B.

Friday, March 9, 2007

5TH AT STATE

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Zach Johnson (12) returns from injury to lead swim team with fifth place finish in 100 fly

By Chris Ray
Writer

5000 fans pack the IUPUI natatorium each February, each hoping their team can make a splash at the IHSAA Boys State Swimming Finals. To any onlooker, the stands are a rainbow of colors from every school represented at the finals, some sections larger than others, but all equally raucous in their support. Nestled neatly into the scores of screaming fans are hundreds of blue and gold-clad supporters of the boys swimming team. Parents, fellow teammates, and friends jam into a small section of the monstrous natatorium hoping to catch a glimpse of Spartan history.

The Spartans' pilgrimage to the State finals has become an annual event for Coach Chad Englehart and his boys swim team, and this year was no exception, as the Spartans once again earned a trip to the finals, held on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, after winning their Sectional a week earlier.

The fourth-ranked Spartans looked to follow up a second place finish last year with another strong showing in 2007. With twelve swimmers competing, more than any other school, the team felt like they could duplicate last year's performance. Instead, the team dropped three places in 2007, placing fifth overall, just three points behind the fourth-place finisher Carmel. Head coach Chad Englehart was pleased with the results.

"This year, we had a number of good swimmers, and I think we placed well. Obviously, as head coach, I thought we could have finished higher, but I am definitely proud of our young team," Englehart said.

Zach Johnson (11), medaled in both of his events, placing fifth in the 100 butterfly and eighth in the 100 backstroke. Earlier this year, Johnson dislocated his knee and chipped a bone piece off in gym class. He had surgery in early December to repair the damage. Johnson said he never considered taking the entire season off.

"Coming back was risky, but [taking the season off] did not cross my mind. There was no way I was going to take off the whole year," Johnson said.

Johnson took off approximately two months before returning.

"It was really tough at first...it hurt on all of the turns and starts," Johnson said.

Before the injury, Johnson thought he had a realistic chance to win the 100 fly, but the injury ended that possibility.

"I was looking at winning the 100 fly before the season, but it couldn't happen after [the injury]. I think winning it next year is a distinct possibility," Johnson said.

> *"Obviously, as head coach, I thought we could have finished higher, but I am definitely proud of our young team."*
>
> Chad Englehart
> Swim Coach

Ryan Dafforn (12) medaled as well in the 200 medley relay.

"There was a great deal of excitement from that enormous crowd. To some, the crowd seems intimidating, but I used the noise to motivate myself," Dafforn said.

For a few swimmers, the State meet was their last as a Spartan. Dafforn, along with a few other seniors, went out with several State meets under their belts.

"I'm just surprised it's already over. I am not disappointed that it's over, because I can now look forward to my next stage in life. Without a doubt, I will miss the times I had swimming as a Spartan," Dafforn said.

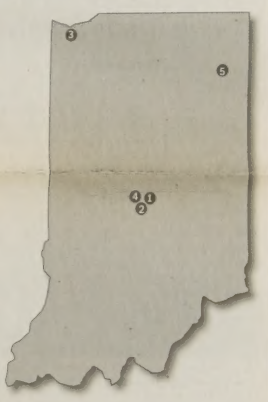
The team also took fifth place in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. With many young swimmers on this fifth place team, the boys could look to use this meet as a building block for next year's season. Englehart does believe that future teams can be as good as this year's team.

"I definitely expect us to compete for the State title next year," Englehart said. "I don't necessarily expect us to make it back to State, because I don't want to put those kinds of expectations on the team. However, we have some good, young talent, and I believe we will be competitive in the upcoming years."

STATE FINALS RESULTS

Hamilton Southeastern led the entire meet to capture their first State title in school history, besting two-time defending champ North Central by 27 points. The Spartans placed fifth with 154 points, just three points away from the fourth-place finisher Carmel.

1. HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN — *Fishers, Indiana*
2. NORTH CENTRAL — *Indianapolis, Indiana*
3. CHESTERTON — *Chesterton, Indiana*
4. CARMEL — *Carmel, Indiana*
5. HOMESTEAD — *Fort Wayne, Indiana*
6. MUNSTER — *Munster, Indiana*
7. NORTHRIDGE — *Middlebury, Indiana*
8. SOUTH BEND RILEY — *South Bend, Indiana*
9. ZIONSVILLE — *Zionsville, Indiana*
10. LAKE CENTRAL — *St. John, Indiana*



INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Zach Johnson (12) fifth in 100 fly, eighth in 100 backstroke

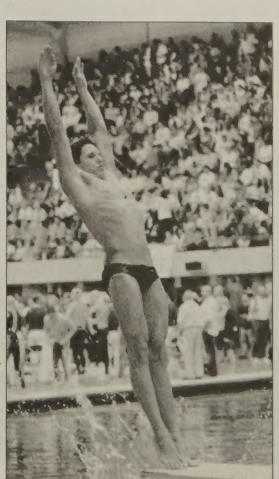
Ryan Dafforn (12) sixth in 200 IM

Kurt Hansbarger (12) seventh in one meter diving

Kyle Frebel (11) 12th in one meter diving

200 freestyle relay fifth place

400 freestyle relay fifth place



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Left: Kyle Frebel participates in the one meter diving finals at the State finals, held Feb. 23 and Feb. 24. Frebel placed 12th in the event, with fellow teammate Kurt Hansbarger (12) placing seventh. The team placed second in 2006 and fifth in 2007, three points away from fourth-place finisher Carmel. Above: Ryan Dafforn (12) swims the breast stroke during the 200 IM. Dafforn placed sixth in the event. Zach Johnson (12) led the team with a fifth place finish in the 100 fly.

Boys go down in sectionals

PHOTOS ZACH METRUCK

Tyler Hoyle (12) walks off the court following the boys basketball team's 56-51 first-round sectional loss to the Snider Panthers.

Coach Chris Johnson reflects, labels this season as one of his most enjoyable

By Nick Arnold
Writer

A difficult season came to an end for the boys basketball team in the first round of the sectional tournament, as they lost to Snider 56-51 to close the season 9-12. The team fell to Snider just a week after beating the Panthers at home. Despite the abrupt end to the season, Coach Chris Johnson seemed pleased with the attitude and preparation of the players

"I was very pleased with the way our kids came and competed each and every day, during practice and during games," Coach Chris Johnson said. "This effort was a very positive aspect for our season."

Though the team fell to 9-12 after beginning the season 5-2, Johnson was still pleased with the opportunities the team had during the season.

"I just asked every player to give 100% and if that was the case, then we would be able to perform at a high level. If you look at most of our games, we had the opportunity to emerge victorious. Even though that didn't always happen, at least we had the opportunity," Johnson said.

Though some might dwell on the negative aspects of the season, Johnson is looking forward to the upcoming season and the process of improvement.

"We have to learn in life that not everything is going to go our way," Johnson said. "You must look at what you need to do to improve."

Johnson highlighted the fact that many of the team's losses came to talented and experienced teams. With this fact in mind, he was pleased with the way the team was able to handle tough competition.

"Seven out of our twelve losses came from teams that were ranked in the top 40 of a state coaches' poll," Johnson said.

Even though the team had to deal with the absence of several returning varsity players, they were able to find depth in other places and still compete.

"We only had one returning starter," Johnson said. "I was very pleased that we were able to compete. We had very few games that were not close."

The Spartans were not alone in the fact that the team was missing key talent from the previous year. Snider, as well as Huntington North, both lost most players from the previous season.

"Any team that loses players is at a definite disadvantage," Johnson said.

The team's future prospects look bright, however, with a number of underclassmen gaining experience on the team.

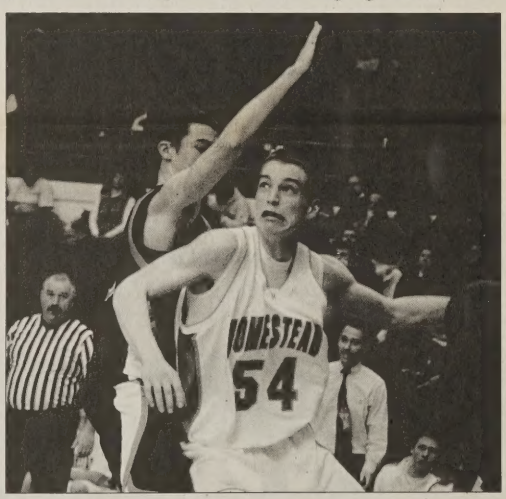
"I am looking forward to the kids that are coming up in the system," Johnson said. "We need to look beyond the four-month season. We have the opportunity to succeed, so we need to take advantage of it."

The team will begin to prepare for the upcoming season by holding open-gym sessions in addition to working in the weight room

"We need to get in the weight room, work on fundamentals, and understand that hard work will get us into the position we desire," Johnson said.

Even though this was one of Johnson's few seasons that resulted in a losing record, he felt that the season was memorable.

"It has been a joy to coach the group of young men that we had this year," Johnson said. "It was one of my most enjoyable years as a coach."



Jacob Weide (11) drives against a Snider opponent during the Sectional game at Huntington.

Crandall recognized in bowling hall of fame

Student's 804 series to be admitted to the Saint Louis Bowling Hall of Fame

By Nick Arnold
Writer

At age seventeen, few athletes could comprehend being in a national hall of fame for the sport which they play.

Usually reserved for retired or aging figures in sports, being recognized in a hall of fame is one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon an athlete. For Riley Crandall (12), however, this honor has become a reality.

Crandall's 804 series is now on display at the National Bowling Hall of Fame in Saint Louis, Missouri. The 804 series represents Crandall's combined score of three games bowled.

The 804 series is made more impressive by the fact that three perfect games would yield a 900. Crandall bowled a 280 the first game and followed it with a 268 and then a 256.

"It was quite an accomplishment," Crandall said regarding the series. "The USBC [United States Bowling Congress] sent me a lettering recognizing the score."

Though Crandall's accomplishment is now on display, he has not yet seen it with his own eyes.

"I'd like to go see it on my own, just to be there in person," Crandall said.

Almost any serious bowler could recognize the gravity of Crandall's accomplishment. Even Crandall's father, a serious bowler from whom Riley learned the game, has never achieved such a success.

"My dad has been bowling for quite a long time and he has still never gotten a score better than that," Crandall said. "He's had a couple perfect games, but never a series that was better than that."

Crandall has been looking to his father for advice in bowling ever since he started playing the game. Both his mother and father continue to bowl competitively and have served as an inspiration for Crandall.

"My dad has been bowling ever since I can remember," Crandall said. "I started bowling when I was around six or seven. They saw I had potential in the sport of bowling, and I decided to develop it."

> *"My dad has been bowling for quite a long time and he has still never scored better than that. He's had a couple perfect games, but never a series that was better than that."*
>
> **Riley Crandall**
> Bowler

Ever since picking up the sport, Crandall has developed his skills in the local bowling alleys throughout Fort Wayne.

"We mostly play at Westwood Lanes and ProBowl West," Crandall said. "Right now, I mainly play at ProBowl."

Crandall's passion and talent in bowling make him an asset to the Homestead Bowling Team. Though it is not an officially sanctioned sport, the Homestead team exists in the form of a club. The fact that such a rapidly growing sport merits only a club sport stature has caused some disappointment among Crandall and other bowlers.

"I would love to see bowling as a sport that is officially recognized by the Indiana High School Athletic Association," Crandall said. "But unfortunately, it will probably never happen during my high school career."

For two years, bowling has been recognized as an official sport in high school athletics in the state of Ohio.

But Indiana remains to change the status quo. As a club sport, the team can only display one sign per school in the district and additionally receives no funding. Yet, the sport is not lacking in popularity, particularly at Homestead.

"Lots of people come to try out," Crandall said. "Some of those who are new to the game end up getting really good, and become a big asset to the team."

Outside of the high school season, Crandall bowls in various tournaments to stay sharp. Some even give out scholarships to top finishers.

Crandall hopes to continue bowling into college, whether it be for an official team or a club.

"I am looking into Ball State, which has a bowling club," Crandall said. "It will still allow me to compete against other clubs in the area."

But for now, Crandall remains focused on the high school season. He is even willing to share some advice for casual bowlers who want to improve their scores.

"Just try to hit the middle arrow on the floor," Crandall said. "Focus on the arrows and follow through and you will see more consistency in your game."

Basic Bowling Scoring

- Each pin down is worth one pin.
- When the bowler receives a spare, it's worth ten pins, plus the number of pins the bowler knocks down on the next ball roll.
- When the bowler receives a strike, it's worth is ten pins, plus the number of pins knocked down on their next two rolls.

Gymnasts fall in sectionals

PHOTO KARA WALL

Two gymnasts console each other following their eighth place finish in the gymnastics sectionals last Saturday. The team compiled an overall score of 89.0 at the final meet of the season.

By Kara Busse
Writer

The Spartan gymnasts were no stranger to hardship this season. The team had to deal with "persistent" injuries and a constantly changing lineup, as well as the knowledge of their Head Coach Erica McEvoy's battle with breast cancer. Their season came to an early end last weekend, when the team failed to advance out of sectionals.

On Saturday, March 4, the girls took to Concordia to compete in the sectional championship. Kelsey Amstutz (10) and Grace Lundergan (12) participated in the beam competition. Ashley Hockney (11) and Lundergan participated in bars. Ally Quintano (9), Dana Droes (12), Emma Duvall (11), and Hockney were a part of the floor competition. Laura Harman (10) and Amstutz performed in vault, and Droes and Duvall also competed in the all-around competition.

Despite numerous injuries, they still managed to put together a solid sectional team, but the result was not necessarily what the girls were hoping for.

The Lady Spartans could not place in the top three necessary to advance on to regionals, placing eighth with a score of 89.0. Despite the loss, Droes said the team performed well overall.

"We had a decent meet. There were things we could have done better, but everyone tried to do their best," Droes said.

Compared with last year's team, which included less than ten girls, this year's team boasted 16 gymnasts. At the beginning of the season, the returning gymnasts worried about the chemistry of the team and the freshmen that tended to isolate themselves at the beginning of the season.

"After being a part of a very small and close-nit team last year, I wasn't all that thrilled about having a large team this year, but it was really fun," Amstutz said.

But after several pasta parties and a long bus-ride home from DeKalb, the team said they began to bond, and by the end of the season many returning members of the team admitted that they began to gel and develop friendships with the younger girls. The exiting seniors said they were going to miss the sport and the people they competed with.

"I'm going to miss hanging out with the girls on the team because we were all really close and bonded really well this year," Droes said.

Injuries to half the team, including Chrissy Chenoweth (11), Amstutz, Harmon, Quintano, and several others, put the team at a constant disadvantage throughout the season.

The Lady Spartans were never able to put together a full team at any of their meets. However, the girls said they were lucky to have a larger team because gymnasts were always available to step into key roles if needed. Last year, in a similar situation, the team would have been hard-pressed to find gymnasts to fill events.

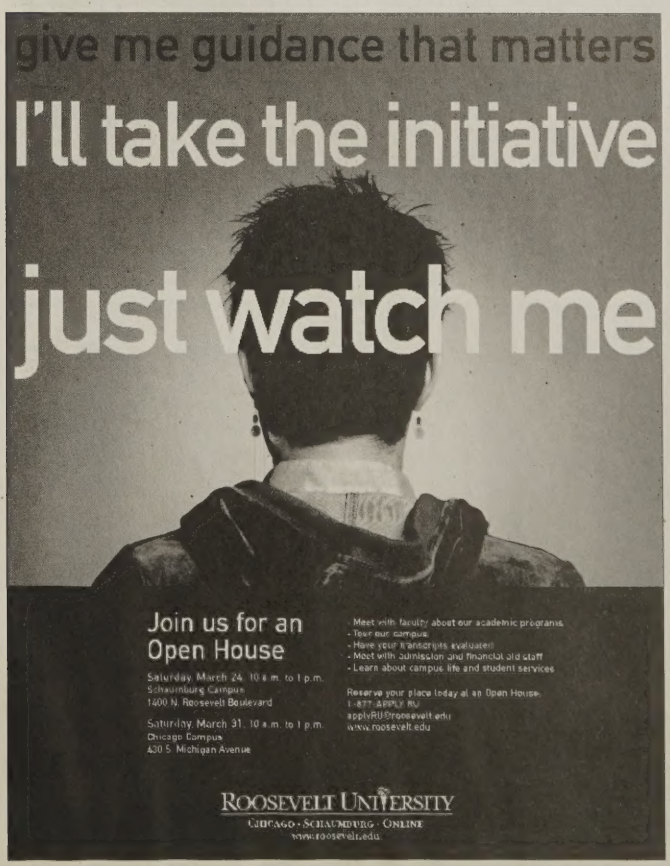
It was not uncommon for Coach McEvoy to undergo grueling chemo treatment in the afternoon, only to come to practice and be available to coach the girls later in the day. The girls lauded McEvoy's efforts even in the face of tragedy calling her "an inspiration."

For three seniors, Droes, Lundergan, and Chelsea Garton (12), Saturday's meet was their swan song. The younger girls seemed disappointed to see them finish their high school careers.

"It was a bittersweet meet," Amstutz said. "A long, hard season is finally over, but our seniors had their last night. It's really sad to see them go."

PHOTO KARA WALL

A Spartan gymnast participates in the beam competition at sectionals.


give me guidance that matters
I'll take the initiative
just watch me
Join us for an Open House
Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Schaumburg Campus
1400 N. Roosevelt Boulevard
Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Chicago Campus
430 S. Michigan Avenue
- Meet with faculty about our academic programs
- Tour our campus
- Have your transcripts evaluated
- Meet with admission and financial aid staff
- Learn about campus life and student services
Reserve your place today at an Open House.
1-877-APPLY RU
applyRU@roosevelt.edu
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City loss ends hockey season

By Mat Mikesell
Writer

The Spartan hockey team ended their season with a 5-3 loss to Snider in the first round of the city tournament on Tuesday. The team finished second in the regular-season standings.

"Basically, we were the underdogs throughout the whole season. We had a young team and a new coach," defensiveman Skyler Villers (12) said. "With the team being stacked with mostly juniors and sophomores, that's a pretty fair judgement to make."

Many players admitted that the team started the season slow but managed to get things together eventually.

"We started off slow, and it took a couple games to gel together as a team and to learn how everyone plays with each other," Villers said.

Once the team started playing well together, winning was common.

"One of our high points in the season was definitely beating Snider and tying to Carroll," Hoff said. "They were both well-fought games and it helped our momentum playing as well as we did."

The team dealt with defensive inconsistencies and key injuries throughout the season.

"Mike Donnell and Joey Emmons both suffered knee injuries and were both in physical therapy the week before the State tourney," Villers said.

This past weekend, the team traveled down to Fishers, Indiana to play in the State tournament. The 4A tournament is the highest level of high school hockey in Indiana.

"Overall, the team played well at State. The talent, though, on the other teams was just too much for us," Hoff said.

Though the team lost every game at State to Marian, Columbus, and Chatard, Hoff mentioned he was pleased that with as tough as the competition was, they weren't blown out in any of the games.

"It was really just a few mistakes and some breakdowns that cost us from possibly winning a game or two," Villers said. "We had a game when we came back from a 6-1 defecit to end the game 7-5 after scoring four times in the third period. We never lost the desire or the drive to win and play the best we could."

Coming into the city tournament, the team was one of the favorites along with Carroll. With the recent snow days, the city tournament was forced to be pushed back after the first rounds of the state tournament. On Monday, they played in the first round game against Snider. The Panthers had also just come off playing in the 3A State tourney, but they got the best of the Spartans, jumping out to a lead and holding on for the two-goal win.

"Snider just had more momentum coming into the game after winning their three games at State compared to our three losses," Villers said.

"We let them have a healthy lead early in the game. We tried to rally from it in the third period, but we just couldn't get it done," Hoff said.

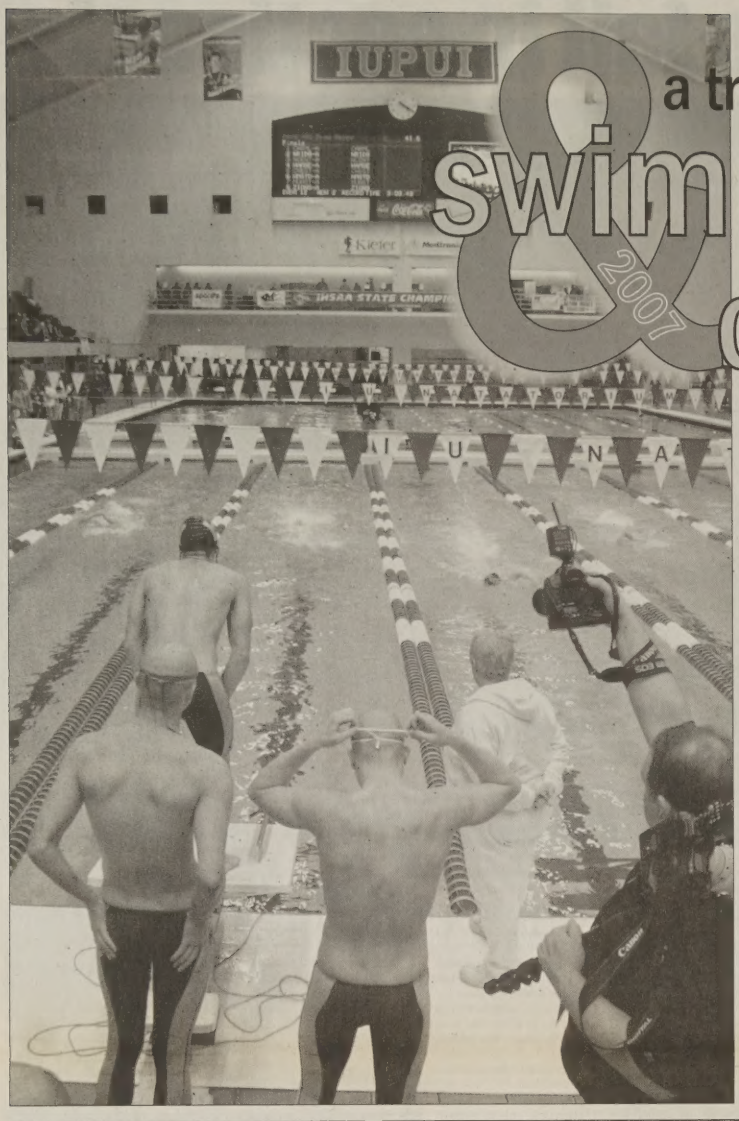
Many players said they felt the team played well overall, despite their disappointing postseason run.

"I thought we played well as a team throughout the year for how young we were," Ryan Hoff (10) said. "A second place finish in the standings is pretty impressive."

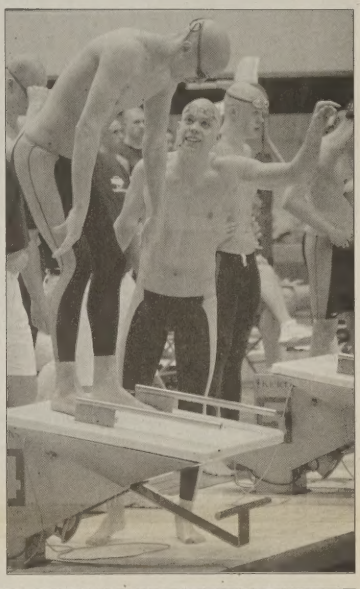
a trip to indy for swimming & diving 2007

BOYS STATE

pictures by margaret distler & zach hetrick

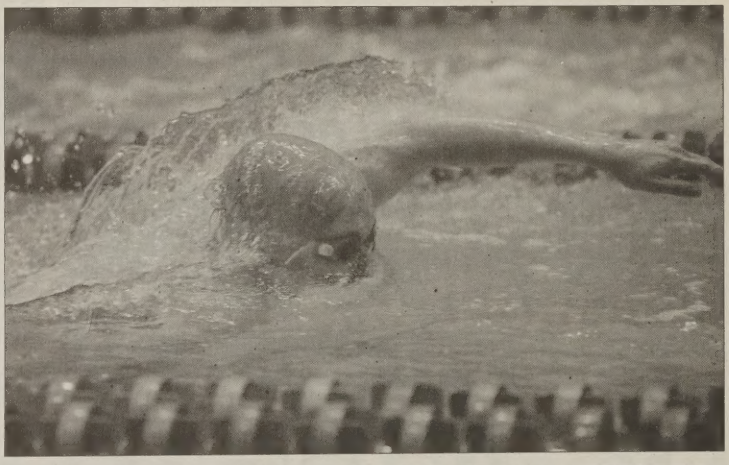


Left: Zach Johnson (11), Ryan Dafforn (12) and Anderson Whipp (10) watch Robert Titcomb (12) swim freestyle as they get ready to swim their legs of the 400 freestyle relay during the finals on Saturday. Below: Anderson Whipp (10) gives Zach Johnson (11) a few last-minute reminders before Johnson dives into the water during the 400 freestyle prelims.



"I think that overall the State meet went very well. There are some areas that we could have improved in, but we went as a fairly young team. I know that the swimmers have the talent and with more experience, the team will do better and they will be able to perform well next year."

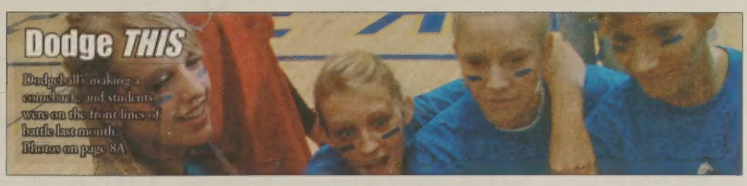
-Senior Ryan Dafforn (below receiving his 6th place medal in the 200 IM)



Top Right: Rober Titcomb surfaces the water for stroke in the 200 freestyle during the Saturday finals. Titcomb finished the event in 1:45.52. Bottom Right: Kyle Frebel (11), Anderson Whipp (10), Nick Jones (10) and Adam Lill (12) stand on the podium for their picture after being awarded fifth place in the 200 freestyle relay.

issue 11 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

the Spartana



Friday, March 30, 2007

Arias, Clough, Jaeger win grants to study

Faculty members to pursue their goals during summer

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Three English and Foreign Language teachers will be spending their summers abroad after winning separate grants. Spanish teacher Toiyanna Arias, English teacher Steve Clough, and German teacher Dan Jaegar won a combined $35,000, which will pay for their individual trips to Costa Rica, Britain and Scotland, and Germany, respectively.

Arias and Clough won their grants from the Eli Lily Endowment, a family-run endowment that "exists to support the causes of religion, education, and community development." Both had to submit specific proposals for the grant, which are increasingly difficult to come by.

See Grants on page 2A

GRANTS, IN SHORT

Stephen Clough
Lilly Grant to England
$20,000
Objective: To study family lineage and write two books.

Toiyonna Arias
Lilly Grant to England
$8,000
Objective: To become fluent in Spanish and write a cookbook

Daniel Jaeger
Lilly Grant to England
$4,000
Objective: To study German in a Berlin academy

BRIEFS

'VARIETY' RAISES $2,500
The student-government and Spartana-run show held March 15 will send half of the profits to the Social Studies Walk-a-thon.

CAFETERIA EXPANSION
Plans to expand the cafeteria have been approved and expansion will begin June 1 ending on Aug. 2, 2007. The expansion will increasing student capacity by 200 and plans are underway to add two new food lines.

WALLFLOWER BACK IN IMC
The controversial novel by Stephen Chbosky, after having been banned from the school's library, has been reinstated.

JCL COMPETES AT STATE
The Junior Classical League competed in the state convention March 9 and 10 in Bloomington. Hari Vasu (12) placed first in two categories. The lower and upper Certamen teams won their divisions. Lee Farnsworth (11) was elected president of the Indiana JCL organization for the 2007-2008 school year.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories ctd.
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial: Kimmel writes on missions, language
PAGE 4A, News: Facebook Forum
PAGE 5A, Life: Gas prices rise again
PAGE 6A, Life: A closer look at Impact School
PAGE 7A, Life: '300' scores big
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: Dodgeball best photographs
PAGE 1B, Sports: Bracket science
PAGE 2B, Sports: Varsity baseball returns 11 players from last year
PAGE 3B, Sports: Pole vaulters at state

CORRECTION

In the March 9 issue, teacher Lana Sipe was incorrectly identified as Linda Sipe. The Spartana regrets this error.

PHOTO ALYSSA BANAS

Alyssa Rae Bolinger (11) protests the conflict in the Middle East in front of the courthouse.

PROTESTING *for* PEACE

By Larry Buchanan
Executive Editor

BRINGING THE War HOME
PART I OF III

On a frosty morning in March-the kind of morning that makes teenagers happy to be indoors and asleep-eight students piled into the back of a white, fifteen passenger van and headed for downtown Fort Wayne. They arrived at the courthouse, made their way across the sopping-wet lawn, and picked up their dusty signs, just like the weeks before. They made their way to the side of Jefferson Boulevard., shivering and frostbitten. Their fingers assumed a position they were familiar with, folded over with the index and middle raised. A warm sensation slowly climbed up their spines.

"I was so cold when I was walking there, but the coldness went away when I was thinking about the whole thing," Jon Swain (12) said. "The peace rally has that effect on you."

Naomi Killham (11), Alyssa Banas (11), Alyssa Rae Bolinger (11), Kirsten Lubkert (11), Leah Collins (11), Anderson Whipp (11), Brad Hines (11), Jon Swain (12), and others have been protesting for peace for several weekends. Mirroring a scene from the war-torn 60s, Fort Wayne's peace protestors rally every third week on the courthouse side of Jefferson

See Peace on page 2A

PHOTO SUZIE KIECZA

School to have single, uniform grading scale

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith has a new initiative for Homestead – a new, uniform grading scale for all classes throughout the curriculum.

Smith decided to implement the change for the high school after the Elementary and Middle Schools switched to a uniform grading scale. The policy will be enacted at the start of next year.

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Carey has worked closely with Dr. Smith on the issue.

"I believe in applying a consistent policy with what is advertised," Carey said. "We print a grading scale in the handbook, but it just hasn't been applied by some teachers who choose to implement their own grading scales. After several complaints from parents, we decided to take action. We just want to make it easier for students."

According to Carey, after several parents

See Grading Scale on page 2A

NEW SCALE

A+	100 - 98
A	97 - 95
A-	94 - 92
B+	91 - 89
B	88 - 86
B-	85 - 83
C+	82 - 80
C	79 - 77
C-	76 - 74
D+	73 - 71
D	70 - 68
D-	67 - 65
F	64 - 0

Speech sends eight to state

One goes to Nationals

By Kara Hackett
Writer

Cari Landrigan (11), Teri Grimes (11), Yogesh Jonna (11), Rahul Gupta (11), Vasundhara Bhargava (11), David Greco (11), Duncan Rodman (11), and Puja Parikh (12) attended the Indiana High School Forensic Association State Tournament on March 24. At the event, President of the team, Parikh, qualified for the national competition hosted by the National Forensic League in Wichita, Kansas.

"It's always a great source of pride for the team when students qualify for state," English teacher and coach Travis Fisher said.

For the seven students who qualified for state, it was the culmination of a long year of practice.

"I thought it was a good experience but I didn't get to compete because I do a part with a partner and my partner, Cari Landrigan was sick the day of the competition," Grimes said.

She believes that had they been able to perform, they would have had a shot at advancing. Bhargava performed in the International Extemporaneous and Impromptu. At district she placed fifth in extemp, one spot away from going to nations.

Parikh, who did qualify, said, "Qualifying for nationals has been my biggest goal for my high school career, so to be announced as a qualifier for something I've always wanted was just a phenomenal experience for me."

The National Forensic League logo.

Students take drug survey

Survey results released from last year, officials comment on Facebook photos

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

Students across Allen county took an Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) drug-use survey Wednesday, and, according to SACS officials, results may show whether or not the school's policies, testing, and efforts to stop drugs have been effective. Results from last year's test were made available at a recent school board meeting.

Northwest and East Allen County Schools also participated in the survey.

Students were asked questions about their use of 21 substances in the past 30 days, past year, and their lifetime. The survey was not mandatory, and students were allowed to turn it in blank.

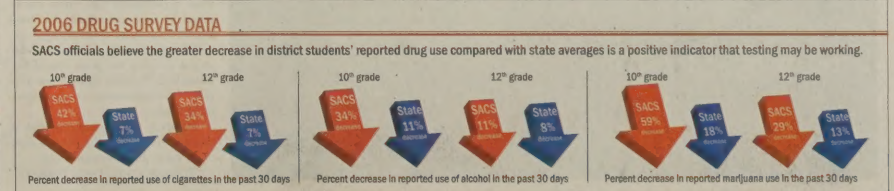
According to Anita Gross, district social worker, the test is one of the only ways district officials and politicians can gauge the effectiveness of testing.

"The goals for the federal grant have to do with the drug survey results," Gross said. "Our goal was to see a five percent decrease this year. That would absolutely be one of the factors we look at of whether we feel [drug testing] is being effective. Realistically you can't do a five percent decrease forever."

See Drug Update on page 2A

2006 DRUG SURVEY DATA

SACS officials believe the greater decrease in district students' reported drug use compared with state averages is a positive indicator that testing may be working.


10th grade
12th grade
SACS 42% decrease
State 7% decrease
SACS 34% decrease
State 7% decrease
Percent decrease in reported use of cigarettes in the past 30 days
10th grade
12th grade
SACS 34% decrease
State 11% decrease
SACS 11% decrease
State 8% decrease
Percent decrease in reported use of alcohol in the past 30 days
10th grade
12th grade
SACS 59% decrease
State 18% decrease
SACS 29% decrease
State 13% decrease
Percent decrease in reported marijuana use in the past 30 days

GRAPHIC LARRY BUCHANAN

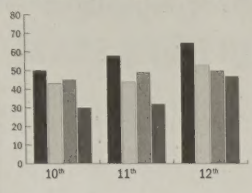
DRUG TESTING DATA

The IPRC survey results for three grades on alcohol, marijuana, and binge drinking are represented below.

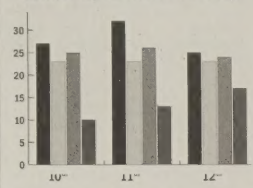
KEY

■ 1997 □ 2000 ■ 2003 ■ 2006

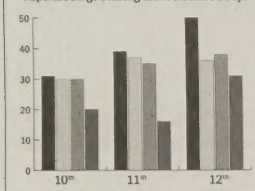
Reported Alcohol use in the last 30 Days



Reported Marijuana use in the last 30 Days



Reported Binge Drinking use in the last 30 Days



Drug Update, continued from 1A

Results from the previous years' tests indicate that drug testing may be effective, according to Gross. SACS' decreases in cigarette use, alcohol, binge drinking, and marijuana in 8th, 10th, and 12th grades were all greater than the decrease in the state average.

"I don't think it's an effective way of measuring the effectiveness of drug testing," Kyle Knezovich (12) said.

"As long as there's some way of weeding out the surveys that are turned in untruthfully it should be effective," Adrian Stark (12) said. "Though they ought to redesign [the survey] so that if you mark 'never smoked in my life,' or something, you don't have to mark 'never smoked' for a different time period.

Gross disagrees.

"Surveys always have pluses and minuses," Gross said. "There are always going to be kids who are going to inflate what they use, other kids who are going to diminish what they use, and they always have the option to turn it in blank. But I think when you look not at the solid numbers, but the trends over time, because it's the same survey administered in the same way, you can see some trends."

The district's testing last year resulted in 10 positive tests out of a total of 545 students tested. This year, at a rate of 40 high school students and 15 middle schoolers tested each week, the district hopes to test more than 1,500 students. SACS is halfway through the three-year federal grant which funds the majority of the tests. Using federal funds the district tests each student for marijuana ($19), one out of every five for alcohol ($95), and rarely for ecstasy and steroids. Without the federal funds Gross doubts whether any testing but marijuana will continue.

District does not have a Facebook or Myspace

After students were questioned last year regarding photos on their Facebook accounts, rumors circulated that the school or district had an account on the social networking site. Contrary to that, Gross and Assistant Principal Chris Johnson confirm that SACS does not have an account, but Gross points out that the district will follow leads regarding photos of illegal activity. She says that if tipped off, administrators may investigate and use photographs as reasons to discipline a student.

"I'm sure Facebook and Myspace are pretty big issues and I don't think kids understand that there have been cases where colleges search those when they're looking at scholarships, and even employers do searches on those," Gross said.

Student opinion varies.

"I think if kids are stupid enough to put photos of themselves drinking on Facebook and they get caught, they get what they deserve," Mandi Mast (12) said.

"The administration has no right to get on a social network to monitor what kids do outside of school," Emily Aeschliman (11) said.

Testing's effectiveness questioned by doctors

Even as SACS officials seem to view survey results as supporting the testing, last week an American Academy of Pediatrics' report concluded that drug testing children is a bad idea because of inaccurate results and the loss of trust between school officials and students.

"Currently, there is little evidence of the effectiveness of school-based drug testing in the scientific literature," the report reads. "It is fairly easy to defeat drug tests, and most drug involved youth are all too familiar with ways to do so. Even when properly collected and validated, urine drug tests yield very limited information. With the exception of marijuana, the window of detection for most drugs of abuse is 72 hours or less."

The report recommends that parents consult the child's primary doctor instead of relying on school-based drug testing or home kits.

Gross and the White House disagree.

According to an Office of National Drug Control Policy report, "Evidence suggesting the efficacy of random student drug testing as a tool to reduce use among youth is mounting. Results of a recent survey in Indiana corroborate what some educators and substance-abuse experts have maintained for years: drug testing is a promising drug prevention strategy."

The survey mentioned is the results of the 2006 survey that students took Wednesday.

"The [Bush] administration is a really strong supporter of student drug testing, but it could absolutely change," Gross said. "I still feel like we're a little early to come to any conclusions. I think another year of data and certainly a third will help us a lot more. I think when you look at the number of years our population was consistently staying above state and national averages, if you don't have something happen, it's never going to change."

Peace, continued from 1A

Boulevard.

Signs read: "Stop the Escalation, No War with Iran," "Bring home our troops," and "Support Peace." They were raised to not only protest the war in Iraq, but violence in general.

"We're doing it to raise awareness about the war and spread the idea of peace," Killham (11) said.

"[The peace rally] isn't about ending occupation in Iraq," Swain said. "It's about finding peace individually and then joining together. That's how you get the message out."

According to Swain and the peace protesters, from the other side of the street come opposing viewpoints, obscenities, and obscene gestures. Signs, reading "Support our troops" garner that side of the street. Chants of "Freedom isn't free, we must defend it," are shouted across the busy road.

The peace protestors believe they are often misunderstood. Popular opinion is that they advocate an immediate withdrawal of the troops, but even the most liberal of the student-protesters realize that doing so would leave Iraq in shambles.

"We acknowledge both sides of the issue," Killham said. "We are not against the troops; we support them. We just want them home."

"We support the troops, we support their life," Brad Hines (11) said. "Life is a cool thing. Death is a serious thing, and people are dying everyday. But they are just another statistic."

Swain adds that the war doesn't affect students directly, and the typical teenager doesn't think about it on a daily basis. Unlike others, Swain does have a direct connection. Four of his friends are currently serving in Iraq.

"Just realize, our brothers and sisters are over there," Jon Swain (12) said. "I'm standing out there for them."

Those who rally speak of peace being an ideal situation, but are realistic about it ever actually happening.

"I don't believe world peace will ever be attained," Alyssa Banas (11) said. "Human beings are going to fight. It's not all about this war. I'm against war in general, but I guess [peace is] just something to strive for in everyday life."

In an ideal world, there would have been no war to begin with, protestors say. But now that America is there, "it's what can we do to protect our troops," Killham said.

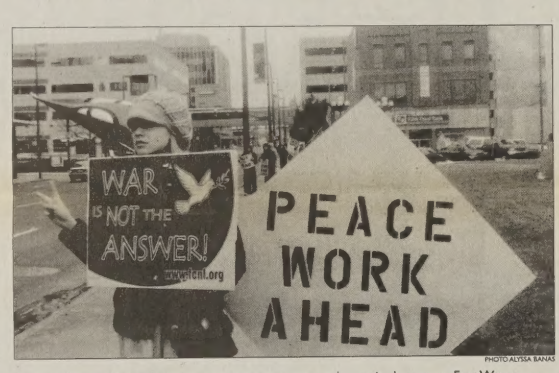


PHOTO: ALYSSA BANAS

Naomi Killham (12) holds up her sign in protest two weeks ago in downtown Fort Wayne.

Those interviewed realize that "peace is not going to be achieved with a snap of a finger," but feel there are better solutions than violence.

"This is a war on terrorism," Brad Hines (11) said. "Aren't we being terrorists bombing them?"

"I think we should try to educate the Iraqi people," Killham said. "And gradually ease [education programs] in, rather than complete military dominance."

pro-peace veterans, mostly from Vietnam, see striking parallels between now and then.

"I was talking to a veteran and he said if the draft comes back [students are] going to be drafted," Swain said. "We would be in Iraq and he didn't want to see that happen. That's why he was there, for us."

The students who rally for peace look to the Vietnam-era for inspiration.

"The 60's peace movement ended because it shifted too much from the original focus to drug use," Banas said. "But, it began well [with the idea of peace]. The problem with 'peace' today is that it is always associated with doing drugs. When people hear about it, they look down upon those people [who talk about peace] and don't hold their opinions at such a high level."

Some feel that students don't attend peace rallies because they have to fit a certain "hippie" stereotype.

"You don't need to fit a stereotype to go to a peace rally," Banas said. "It's a *peace* rally."

"I'm always asked, 'Oh you're going to a peace rally and do a bunch of drugs?'" Killham said. "And I'm just like, 'No, I'm going to a peace rally, to rally for *peace*.' But you automatically are going to get that connotation."

A point Killham and the others stress is that peace is not going to just happen with a snap of the fingers; it must come from within.

"You have to find peace within yourself," Alyssa Rae Bolinger (11) said. "Figure out what is important to you and have absolutely no chaos [within]. You understand yourself. Then, [regarding] peace within a group, you understand one another and with that you have respect. Peace and love equals happiness," Bolinger said.

"Peace" is what Bolinger and his friends say they've found, and they're looking to spread it. They plead for company and support for their cause.

"If everyone was out holding signs, there would be no war," Hines said.

"We can get involved, we can change what is going on, we are the future," Killham said.

Grants, from 1A

"This is the fifth [grant] I've applied for in eight years, so I'd say [they're difficult to come by]. This is the first one I've written since coming to Homestead," Arias said.

This will be the third time since 1995 that Clough has traveled to Britain with a grant. For the past twelve years, Clough has worked to unearth his family ancestry, which he has successfully traced back to 1780 England.

"I got started in the archives in Yorkshire and found a number of things, including graveyards, marriage certificates, and death certificates and began to put a story together. That was the beginning," Clough said.

He returned in 2003 to take the research further and managed to find three relatives of his great-grandfather, William, who he learned left England in 1871 for America. Following the 2003 trip, Clough began work on two books, which he will finish with this year's grant.

"One is called Finding William, and it's the amazing story of what I've done, how I've done it, and what I've found. The other book that I am currently working on is the story of my great-great-grandfather, who was a clockmaker. This [grant] is going to give me up to 14 weeks to finish these projects," Clough said.

The second part of his grant will allow him to explore his family's Celtic background. Clough considers this aspect of the grant "the fun part."

Though Clough does not know whether his books will ever be published, he said its completion will mean a lot.

"If nothing is ever published, I'll at least have a complete record of the Clough ancestry back to 1780. Anybody who comes after and wonders what it's like to be part of this family can read this thing and understand who we are and where we came from," Clough said.

For five weeks this summer, Arias will have the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica with $8,000 she won through the Lily Endowment. She will stay with two separate families, taking private language lessons, touring the country, and preparing a Costa Rican cookbook. Though Arias has traveled to Costa Rica several times before, this is the first time a grant will pay for the costs.

"I will take my sons down because we had already planned a summer vacation, but when I'm with the two families, they'll be staying with my in-laws. I'll get to do things I wouldn't normally get to do on a normal family vacation," Arias said.

Arias will stay in two different areas in the Central Valley of San Jose and plans to study the linguistic differences. She will also study at a language academy.

"It's just something I want to do to further my linguistic skills and get to a place where people will really have trouble knowing if I am native or not. That's my constant goal. I always want to continue to improve on the little technicalities that I'm not sure about," Arias said.

When writing her proposal, Arias said she noticed a distinct difference in the amount of support she felt compared to other districts she has worked at.

"I honestly feel that Homestead has a very supportive system, where if you're interested in writing [a grant], there are people who are willing to look at it and help review and critique you," Arias said.

Jaeger will be spending a portion of his summer at a Berlin, Germany institute, where he will be taking intensive language training. He will study for a total of 80 hours at the institute. At the end of the training, Jaeger will take a language proficiency exam.

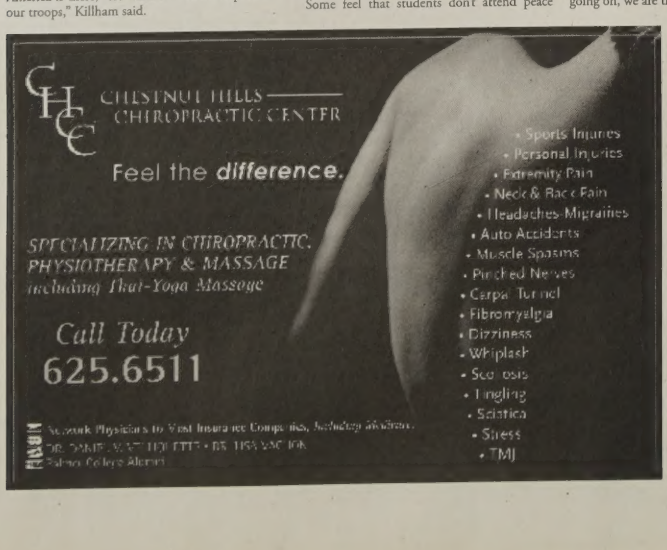
"In Europe, the tests tell people what ability level you are at," Jaeger said.

He won the grant from the Goethe Institut. The Institut sent out an email about the grant, which said that there were eight scholarships available for German teachers who wanted to improve their language skills. Jaeger was surprised to learn he had won the grant due to the fact that was last in Germany just two years ago. However, he said he felt confident in his ability to apply.

"There was a lot of writing in German. I can see where people wouldn't want to apply because of that...I am pretty confident in my writing," Jaeger said.

Jaeger said he is thankful for the chance to go back to Germany, pointing out that opportunities like this do not come along very often.

"Being immersed in the culture for a month is a big deal. You're surrounded by the language all the time. [In Germany], what I'm good at it valuable and useful all the time," Jaeger said.



Grading scale, continued from 1A

complained about the different grading scales, the issue was brought forth to the Teacher Advisory Committee, composed of the individual department chairs. After negotiations, the department chairs agreed on the grading scale which will then be approved by the school board.

The uniform grading scale will apply to all classes, including ISTEP+ Remedial, ESL, AP, and honors courses. Because of the broad range of courses the grading scale will be applied to, the scale has become more lenient than what it previously was. Some classes, especially math and science, had more lenient scales prior to the change.

"We relied on the department heads to tell us what the scale should be," Carey said. "Student opinion was to be relayed through teachers to the department heads."

However, many students feel as though a uniform grading scale will actually make things more difficult.

"It is ridiculous," Omar Nader (11) said. "There are AP classes and ESL classes that have different content in them. At Carroll High School, where I used to go, they had a uniform grading scale, but grades were weighted. Maybe if we weighted grades I would be more in favor of just one, uniform grading scale."

"I was very surprised to hear about all of the different grading scales," Carey said. "I would think it would make it much easier [for students] to know that the grading scale is the same in every class."

Some teachers agree with Carey and Smith.

"We have such a convoluted grading scale right now," German teacher Daniel Jaeger said. "We have teachers that make up their own grading scales, departments that make up their own scales. For example, in the math department, we used to use the Chicago Math System, but we haven't been using the system for years. So it's time for a change."

page 3A
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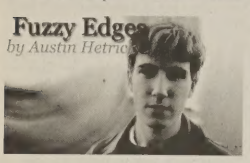
Opinion

Savior sighted in Indianapolis

Fuzzy Edges
by Austin Hetrick



I've been trying to write a novel, and I'm looking for suggestions. Last summer I got my first real inspiration, and since then I've been pondering the plot between passing periods… creating my characters out of books, trying to draw some pointers from the discussions in Clough's class.

Of course writing the thing hasn't gone nearly as well as thinking about it. Heck, I'm three for four in the Final Four (stupid Georgetown), I can't be stopped in Madden, but writing a novel has nothing to do with luck, and everything to do with things I have no idea about. Plot development? Character circularity and consistency? Style flow? I'm still in the dark on most of them.

My inspiration was simple: one day while eating my turkey sandwich in the courtyard outside the office I was working in a tramp of about 25 approached me. Dressed from head to toe in black, the young man had sunken eyes and a long, pale face. He was barefoot. He arrived at around the halfway mark in my sandwich, which made his question difficult.

"You gonna eat that half?" he asked.

I had been planning on it of course, but hell, I was feeling charitable, so I hooked him up. He said thanks and meandered, dropping crumbs as he went, towards the bench to my right.

Pondering my decision to grant him my sandwich I picked up my book, which I had been reading rather absent-mindedly till then. I munched chips. And then it struck me.

That guy was Jesus.

I looked over quickly at the tramp I believed to be the Messiah and wondered for a moment…he did have the look that the artists have given him over the centuries: long dark hair, hallowed, gleaming eyes. Then again, what was the Messiah doing begging half a turkey sandwich in Indianapolis at noon? Didn't he have better things to do?

Still…I couldn't get it out of my head that this man might, just might be Him.

Thus began the thought process which would lead me ultimately to decide I wanted to write a novel, about the day the Messiah returned for a checkup on, of all places, Indianapolis.

So I'm looking for ideas, I'm not very up on my Christianity, and I've no intention of writing blasphemy. So, if you're still reading, pick up a pen, or write me an e-mail. Why do you think Jesus should arrive today?

CARTOON SHANE LUTRELL

Discussion still missing in schools

At an East Allen County Schools' school board meeting last week supporters of Woodlan High School's journalism advisor Amy Sorrel waited through the educational bureaucracy for a chance to speak. When the time for public commentary arrived, however, Board President Rev. Stephen Terry told students and parents that they would not be able to comment.

"It's to preserve the rights of the teacher," Terry said. He argued that Indiana law requires board members to remain impartial in the event that Sorrell is fired and appeals the decision.

Sorrel has been placed on leave while the district investigates an allegation which has not been made public. Earlier this month the Woodlan student newspaper the Tomahawk was placed under the control of Woodlan's principal after it ran an article on tolerance of homosexuals.

At one point the parent of a student stood and asked if he might speak about the censorship, not the teacher. He was denied.

Of course Terry has a point: as he said in a discussion with Spartana editors, if Sorrel's case comes before the board, members will have to act as a jury, and it should remain unbiased (which left us wondering about the newspapers strewn across board members' desks open to Woodlan editorials.)

But Terry made a serious error when he denied residents the opportunity to speak, and for the three Spartana editors who attended the meeting, it was an error we've seen our own district act out many times before.

By denying residents the opportunity to speak, Terry failed to recognize the importance of discussion, the importance of providing an opportunity for and listening to what others have to say about an issue.

Without digging through ancient history, this school and district have, on occasion, been guilty of this error; it appears to be easier to make pronouncements and statements than to gather input or to listen.

As at Woodlan, what the editorial board would like to see is an actual effort by administrators and school board members to include students and parents in the discussion of controversial issues. Where were the discussions of drug testing held in the high school? When were students asked whether they would participate in a variety show? Where were parents given an opportunity to speak on Hunter the drug dog? These are issues that affect students and parents alike, and this editorial board is not satisfied with the efforts being made to involve the community in school decisions.

Whether or not Ms. Sorrel deserves to be fired, or the paper censored, or a drug dog purchased, or a variety show left for dead, should not be the decision of a select few based solely on their own personal convictions.

Instead, this board contends that to execute their positions properly the SACS and EACS boards and administrators must listen to what their constituents have to say…and provide an opportunity for them to do so. It's not enough simply to provide five minutes at the end of a meeting for "public input;" our officials must actively seek the community's opinion.

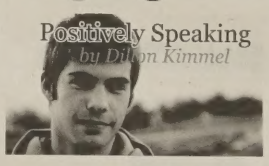
For too long have serious changes and contentious issues gone unchallenged and un-talked about by our students and parents, and it's time SACS board ensured that the trend comes to an end.

Perhaps what these boards need most is a reminder of what their job really is. One of the goals SACS' board tasked itself with just happens to be this: "To involve citizens in the work of the schools and solving of educational programs…To help citizens feel a direct responsibility for the quality of education provided by their schools… To foster public understanding of the need for constructive change, and to solicit public advice on how we can achieve our educational goals."

It's time this board, our principals, and other public education leaders lived up to these lofty goals.

Breaking the language barrier, one mission at a time

Positively Speaking
by Dillon Kimmel



Language is the most precious form of communication known to mankind. Imagine, if you even can, a world with no language, with no speech. Communicating with anyone would be infinitely more difficult, if not impossible. We would be relegated to animal status, relying on different grunts and screeches in order to get each other's attention. Thankfully, though, when God said, "It is not good that man should be alone," He also found it pertinent that the two be able to speak to one another. But I digress.

English is obviously my first language, and I've made it my goal to master it, both in my speech and in my writing, and I do feel I have a very good grip on this, one of the most difficult languages in the world to decipher. But two going on three trips to Spanish-speaking countries have given me an unbridled appreciation for the Spanish language and all it entails.

My freshmen year I made my first trip overseas to the small, quaint country of El Salvador. I was only one semester into my first year of Spanish back home, so communicating with the locals was especially difficult. But I was fascinated with the translators all around me, and I was envious of their exceptional dual-language ability. I vowed then and there that I too would become proficient in Spanish.

I returned to El Salvador last year altogether frustrated with the language. Back home, I had struggled through two and a half years of the language, getting behind significantly in class and seriously considering dropping it altogether. I didn't feel as comfortable with the language as my other classmates were, and I expected to struggle with the locals once again.

Only it didn't happen. By the end of the trip, I was serving as a translator-of-sorts to members of my group. I found myself able to carry on full conversations with the people. I certainly didn't know I had it in me, but it was an amazing feeling to know I did. I returned home rejuvenated but still struggled in class. But this time I refused to admit that I didn't have the ability to do well. I stuck with it, and now I am reaping the benefits, enjoying my most successful year since beginning to study the language more than three years ago.

As this paper is being distributed, 19 missionaries, including Homestead students

Katie Ritter (10), Lori Christner (12), Paula Anderson (12), Kolton and Kaidon Hempton (9), Tyler Harmeyer (9), Jeff Price (11), and I have landed in Harlingen, Texas and are traveling to the Texas-Mexico border, where we will spend six days on the Mexican side ministering to and serving the people in the small community of Reynosa, Mexico.

I hope to be able to serve as a liaison between my group and the people we will come in contact with. I am not as naïve as to think I am proficient enough to serve as a translator, but I do hope to be able to speak to large groups, in their language, at some point during the trip.

Spanish has opened up a lot of doors in my life. Because of it, I am committed to serving in the mission field in some capacity for the rest of my life. I want to master the language itself some day, and not just for professional reasons. Someday, I hope to travel back to El Salvador or Mexico or wherever and give back to the people who taught me so much, in their native tongue. In that I would find great joy.

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Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

Letters to the editor

Rashad Lovett (12) asks why 'words hurt'

Dear Editor,

I don't know how to start this so, I'll just ask a question: Why do words hurt? I guess I don't understand. I want to talk to somebody who does.

Why do we let people's opinions get to us? Why do some people care what other people think? I can't talk because there have been times where I let what people say get to me. But, in recent years, I've said to myself that whatever someone has to say about me I just let it go. I told one of my friends that i had a problem with someone at their school saying negative things about them to not let it get to them.

I said, "Look at it like this: what he or she is saying is not going to affect you when you go out to get a job, get your license or whatever. Words are words, don't let their opinion shape you or your life. Because, at the end of the day, you have to make you happy. Not them. you wake up with you every morning, and if you wake up thinking about what somebody said to you last week, you've got to get over it. It's not that serious."

I listened to myself say that and figured out I was not taking my own advice, (which I'm not sure was good or not, I just said what was on my mind). People, in my opinion, take what others have to say way too seriously, but then again a lot of individuals take themselves too seriously. It bothers, forget that, it annoys me when people are walking around sad because somebody called them a name. I mean, everybody has an opinion and they either will say it behind your back or say it to your face. If they say it behind your back, that's how rumors get started, but that's neither here nor there.

The thing that kills me about people is when they hear something about them or somebody says something to them that they get mad about, some might say the person "ruined their self-esteem." Now, I don't get that one at all. How can a personal mess up what you think about yourself? Must be some kind of Jedi mind-trick or something like that. I can count on one hand how many times I've been affected personally by what somebody had to say about me, I get over it eventually and I move on. Some people hold grudges and are forever mad at the person who said whatever to or about them. I've offended a few people and hurt some feelings and still don't speak or even look at them because i know they are still angry about whatever I said whenever.

Another thing I've trained myself to do is not apologize because I think you should only apologize when it is unintentional, but if you meant to do or say whatever, then just let it be. I'm not saying I have too much pride to say "I apologize;" it's just that I don't think I should apologize for something I intended to do because, obviously, I meant to offend or hurt feelings.

In conclusion, I'm not telling anybody to do what I do, I do me and you can do you, but learn a little from me. People seem to think since I fail most of my classes that I'm dumb, so almost automatically I'm tuned out. Hell, most of you might not even read this article just because of the name attached to it, but to those who do, thanks for your time, and I will close with my favorite quote by me, "At the end of the day, you have to make you happy. Nobody else." I'm not I'm not the first to say it, but it sounds better coming from me.

Rashad Lovett

Caitlin Ryan (12) responds to article, letter on Perks now back in IMC

Dear Spartana Editors and Staff,

In February, many of us were shocked to read that The Perks of Being a Wallflower had been banned from our school library. Having read the

book, the banning of it gave me even more reason to recommend it to all of my friends. Then, in your next issue, you published a letter by Brian Marks who wrote that, "Perhaps the novel should not be required reading in classes... however, the novel should still be available in the school library for anyone interested." Just today, I was pleasantly surprised to find out that this novel is now a part of our school's library once again. For this, I thank you, the Spartana, and everyone who has spoken out against the banning of this book.

I fully agree with Brian's comments that the book should not have been banned in the first place, but my reasons are slightly different. On a purely philosophical level of discussion, I of course believe that the libraries of public schools should strive to offer a wide variety of reading material that caters to the interests and needs of students. Perks, as many of its readers affectionately refer to it, is a coming-of-age novel. What could be better subject matter for a school filled with kids about to make their way into the "real world" of adults? Having read the book multiple times, I believe that there are few books so poignantly fitting for people of our age, and I would go so far as to assert that everyone should read Perks, maybe not as part of a classroom curriculum, but certainly on his own.

Throughout the novel, Charlie writes of his first year in high school and all that it entails, from making new friends and going to school dances to the Rocky Horror Picture Show and his first kiss. He takes you through his times of joy, times of sorrow, and moments in which, as Charlie says, "I swear we were infinite."

Even though you may not have experienced everything that Charlie has, by the end of the novel, you feel able to understand him as though you had. In fact, it's as if you are Charlie, and, in a way, I think we all have a little bit of Charlie in us. Maybe you're not a wallflower, but have you ever fallen in love with your best friend, knowing that it probably wouldn't ever work out the way you'd like it to? Or, maybe you've dated someone whom you didn't really love because you didn't really know better? Maybe you have what Charlie calls "problems at home," or maybe you're looking for "someone out there [who] listens and understands and doesn't try to sleep with people even if they could have."

So, regardless of who you are, where you've come from, or what you're going through right now, I urge you to pick up this book and give it a try. It's small, and you probably won't be able to put it down until you're finished—a moment in which you might just find yourself saying "I feel infinite."

Peace.

Caitlin Ryan

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: **Sex-ed**

Should schools teach abstinence-only sexual education, include safe-sex techniques, or forge a path down the middle?

Hana Al Hawash

Just because you tell kids that sex before marriage is wrong doesn't mean they won't have sex. In our

society it's become the norm for high school students and even middle school students to have sex. Even if one is for abstinence, it's still a fact that kids need to know how to be "safe." So at least we can try and teach people how to stay safe.

Then there are the kids who have been brought up in strict homes and believe in abstinence, and they could be offended by schools teaching how to have sex instead of saying that it is wrong. To some, that's basically saying "you really shouldn't, but since you're going to anyway, heres how." Basically, mix the two and teach both.

Brad Zehr

Sex ed. needs to take place at two different times in the teen years: once in sixth grade and once at the

beginning of sophomore year. The former would be an objective overview of sex, STDs, and contraceptives- the biology, if you will. The latter would be more of a forum for discussion about why abstinence is much more rewarding emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

By the time our teen relationships become serious enough to consider sex, we've forgotten the ATM card (Abstinence 'till Marriage) we signed in sixth grade.

The start of sophomore year is when sex is suddenly real and when teen pregnancy rates begin to ascend. Safe sex needs to be taught early on, but serious discussions on abstinence should be reserved for more mature students.

Leslie Holbrook

Both abstinence and safe sex should be taught. Obviously, schools want to go more towards the

abstinence route, because it's what is taught as morally correct (for most people) until marriage.

On the other hand, if you choose to have sex, you should be well informed [about safe sex].

It smarter to teach safe sex because there's always going to be the people who choose not to practice abstinence, and they should know how to protect themselves, other than by not having sex.

Proper methods for safe sex should be taught so that unsafe methods (or no method at all) that could cause more harm in the long run are not being used.

Tired of hearing the same people speak out? Join the Controversy group on Facebook and give us your opinions.

the Spartana on Facebook.
We'll confirm you, guaranteed.

Letter to the student body

To my fellow students,

I don't write much. In fact, I haven't written anything for this publication, aside from a few info boxes and captions in a little over two years. Sure, my opinion has been portrayed through editorial board discussions (usually the words of Austin Hetrick for those who didn't already know), but I feel strongly enough to step away from design for a few minutes and exercise my right to student expression.

At Homestead, we are lucky. We may not realize it--we complain about administrators, rules, and drug testing, but we are lucky to be able to criticize. School board policy 4150 relates to student publications (we published the policy two weeks ago on page 3A). The opening line of the policy states that "Student publications have been established for student expression." The policy goes on to encourage "vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter" even if it is "controversial, unpopular or critical of school affairs or officials."

Basically, the Spartana is held to the same standard that professional newspapers are. We can print whatever we want provided that it is not libelous, obscene, or vulgar as defined by The Fort Wayne Newspapers and what is printed does not cause a substantial disruption to the school day.

Unfortunately, and maybe unbeknownst to you, not all high school students share this right. A majority of students do not have the right to criticize administration, policy, school board, or issues that concern them every day. School boards and administrators in such high schools feel that students check their rights upon entering school. In their minds, censoring student opinions, feelings, and views is the answer. As you're reading this, censorship is what's happening at Woodland High School (in East Allen County Schools) whose principal censored an article promoting tolerance of homosexuals and dictated that papers would from now on go though his office.

"We can get involved, we can change what is going on we are the future."

Naomi Killham (11)
Peace Protestor

We receive a few letters each month from students who exercised their right to freedom of expression; but not nearly enough as we should. Maybe we don't realize how lucky we are because it's always been this way, or maybe people just don't care.

Rashad Lovett and Caitlin Ryan have exercised their right to student expression this issue. Lovett, compelled by things he saw in the halls, wrote to his fellow students; and Ryan, with Brian Marks last issue, wrote in response to the banning of the book, Perks of Being a Wallflower. Because of their letters, the book is now back on the shelves in the library.

On another note, but on the same general issue, the students who protested downtown for peace exercised their right to expression. Those students took a stance on an issue and are trying to do something to change it, which is more than many of us can say. I respect that. When many of us sit in classes and at home, watch news reports, then simply forget that a war is going on because it doesn't affect us directly, they are out trying to make a difference—trying to change something.

"We can get involved, we can change what is going on we are the future," Naomi Killham (11) said. "We need people. We are trying to do the best we can as high school kids, letting people know what is going on and raising awareness."

Killham, and others, stood down town in the freezing cold, exercising their right to expression because they think that what they're doing will make a difference. They are trying to change things for the better. They aren't complaining; they are acting.

We all have opinions and we all complain at one point or another about Homestead. But don't just complain, take the next step—act.

Take a lesson from Rashad Lovett, Caitlin Ryan, Brian Marks, Naomi Killham, and others who project their beliefs and feelings. Exercise your right to student expression, even if it's for the simple fact that you have the right.

If you feel strongly enough, write in; you may be surprised with the results. Maybe something will change—maybe not. But, at least you tried. No one will know how you really feel if you never tell.

Thanks for reading,
Larry Buchanan

page 5A
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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Life

Friday, March 30, 2007

GASOLINE

How teachers, science explain petrol prices, and why they're not coming down any time soon

By Karolina Heyduk,
with reporting by Puja Parikh
Life Editor and News Editor

As variable as the weather and as worrisome as the next calculus test, gas prices affect almost every car parked in all three Homestead lots. But as students pull up to the pump, rarely is the science behind gas prices considered. While the impact of a $35 tank of gas is evident, how gasoline is produced and why exactly prices vary so much are little known facts.

"Many people are concerned about rising gas prices, but they're going to rise because demand [will be] so high this summer," Summers said. "The formula gas companies use is different in the summer."

According to the Department of Energy (DoE), Americans use 20 million barrels of oil a day, 45% of which is used for gasoline, translating into roughly 9 million barrels (or about 178 million gallons) of gasoline per day to run our cars.

The clear liquid that comes from the pump starts off as a gooey black substance full of hydrocarbons, known as crude oil. Refineries break down crude oil into useful by products of different chemical formations.

The products in crude oil are separated by fractional distillation by using each by products boiling point to separate it from crude oil. The products that come from crude oil aside from gasoline include kerosene, oil, and diesel.

But the process of making gasoline doesn't explain why prices are so different across the country, from day to day. Instead, to find the source of gas prices, economists look to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which controls about 40% of crude oil exports and two-thirds of all oil fields in the world according to the Energy Information Administration.

OPEC is made up of 11 countries, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, who can determine the supply of crude oil and the amount produced. When OPEC lowers the supply, prices rise.

"I feel sorry for your generation," Summers said. "When I bought my first car I filled it up with ten gallons of gas that cost $3.20. While that may seem like a drastic difference compared to today's prices, actually gas isn't that expensive with inflation. Gas prices will never go down. They will get so expensive to the point where alternative fuels will instead be used."

Other factors can also affect gasoline prices. Katrina hit the Gulf Coast hard enough to spike gasoline prices temporarily, but even seasonal weather changes, like summer travel season, can induce an increase in prices. Some areas in the country have tougher laws regulating gasoline standards and, because of that, have significantly higher prices (Chicago and California, for example).

Still, most students look at the price outside the local gas station and cringe as prices rise almost overnight.

"They were good for a while," Will Kioultzopoulous (12) said. Kioultzopoulous pays for his own gas. "But right now, gas prices are pretty bad. I'm working to conserve gas so I have to spend as little money as possible."

But, not all students have to deal with rising gas prices personally, due to the fact that many parents are willing to pay for gas.

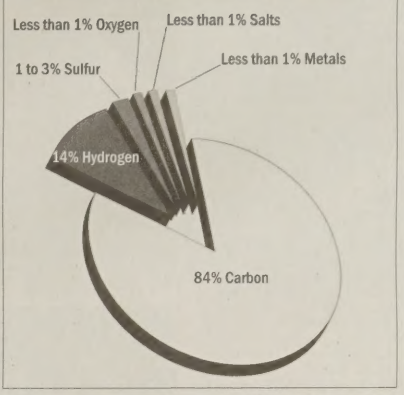
"I think it's a good thing because I already have so many responsibilities with school and swimming and I haven't had time for a job yet," Emily Aeschilman (11) said.

"Most of [students'] gas is used to go to school, work, and sports," Jared Curtis (12) said.

With prices rising and an foreseeable end to the crude oil supply, the feeling of a need for change is common among students.

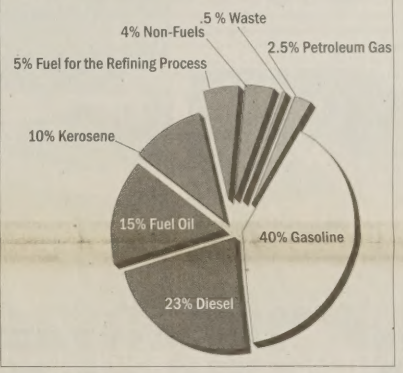
"I think it's a good idea to find new sources for energy because the fuel we use is limited and will run out eventually, and we will need something to replace it," Aeschilman said.

CRUDE OIL: THE BREAKDOWN



CRUDE OIL: THE PRODUCTS

After fractional distillation crude oil is separated into these components.



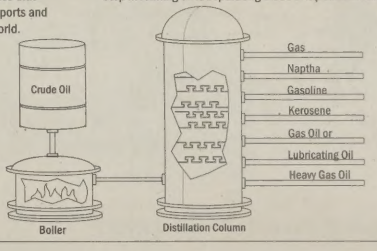
OPEC NATIONS

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries contains eleven countries that control about 40% of crude oil exports and two thirds of all oil fields in the world.

Algeria
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Kuwait
Libya
Nigeria
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates
Venezuela

FRACTIONAL DISTILLATION

The various components of crude oil have different sizes, weights, and boiling temperatures. The first step in refining oil is separating these components. This process is called fractional distillation.



1. Crude oil is heated.
2. The mixture boils, forming vapor.
3. The vapor enters the distillation column that is filled with trays or plates.
4. The vapor rises in the column.
5. When a substance in the vapor reaches a height where the temperature in the column is equal to the substance's boiling point, it will condense to form a liquid.
6. The trays collect the liquid factions.

Summer job seekers talk wages, stress

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

From flipping burgers to folding cleanly pressed shirts, students can be found working away, just to earn some extra cash. While the first job – and it's very small paycheck – is a staple of teenage summers, it's debatable whether or not it is in the students' best interest to be working and balancing a full time school schedule.

"Part time jobs are okay as long as the student can also keep his or her school work up to date," Jim Lamping, math teacher, said.

Employers often times face a notable risk of employing teenagers, due to the fact that a large majority are involved with extra curricular activities, and of course a full school load. These factors bring up the issues of commitment and dependability.

"I feel it is very important for a student to juggle a job, and academics," Kara Lindsay, Managing Partner at Outback Steakhouse, said. "Of course having two big responsibilities like these can bring stress, but it teaches work ethic, and the value of a dollar."

Some students feel it is best if they choose not to work, ensuring that their extra time can be dedicated to focusing on schoolwork and enjoying some free time. For other students, the only thing between them and part-time work are their parents.

"I would rather have a job, but my parents won't allow me to," Brittany Jagger (11) said. "They feel that it takes away from my school work."

Although unemployed students have more time to focus on earning quality grades and have time to relax, they also face the burden of being dependent upon their parents' finances in order to pay for their desires.

"I am a very independent person," Jagger said. "If I need money for anything, my parents are willing to give it to me, but I feel bad always asking, and I would rather buy things myself when I'm capable of it."

Although holding a part time job at this age can have its drawbacks, it is also important to note that being involved with a job at such a young age, can boost the teens awareness of what the "real world" is like. Having a job teaches respect and responsibility, characteristics that will be necessary one way or another in a career for teens later in life.

"If the student is succeeding academically, then a job can help further their maturity, self-esteem, and teach responsibility," April Moss, social studies teacher, said.

Students pursuing part-time jobs part will eventually sit down for an interview. The interviewing process varies depending on the location, but on average it takes up to two weeks for an applicant to be interviewed.

Even once a student is hired, the employee then goes through an average of one week of training and testing on the specific requirements for each job.

"I was interviewed twice, and then had to train for three days," Andrew Lee (11) said. "It involved watching a lot of pointless videos and just getting to know the restaurant."

Employers use interviews as a heavy factor in hiring decisions, and students should take not to come prepared with both school history, experience, and appearances.

"For most teens, it is their first job. I look for extra curricular activities such as sports or clubs," Lindsay said. "Eye contact, handshake, attitude, and posture are very important. It tells me how they feel about themselves."

Habitat for Humanity trip teaches lessons

Rachel German (11) and Ashley Hockney (11) travel to El Salvador to aid the homeless

By Taylor Harruff
Writer

Teaming up with Habitat for Humanity's Christian mission to providing simple, decent housing for people in need, Rachel German (11) and Ashley Hockney (11) traveled to El Salvador to provide for those less fortunate. Immersing themselves in a different culture (and climate), the two juniors stayed a week to build a house.

"The trip was rewarding. Helping with the house gave me a feeling of accomplishment, like I was doing something worthwhile," German said. "It was hard to say it was a great trip though with all the poverty we saw. It was hard to see so many people with such great need, knowing at home I waste so much. It is so hard to appreciate what we have."

Since 1987, groups of volunteers have been joining together under Habitat for Humanity to build houses for less privileged people. With 2,322 affiliates worldwide, Habitat for Humanity has been able to help eliminate poverty housing.

They have already built over 104 single-story, three bedroom homes just in the Ft. Wayne area, involving countless local volunteers over the years. Humanity has an office downtown. The program is affiliated with the Christian church, though no missionary work is attached to the volunteering.

"Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity plans one mission trip each year during college spring break," Don Cross, director of the local Habitat for Humanity, said. "The first two such trips were to Guatemala and last three trips have been to El Salvador. We have build up a very rewarding relationship with the Santa Ana Affiliate and have found El Salvador's needs so great and their program well organized."

"I have been volunteering with Habitat for Humanity for about two years," German said. "In 2005, my church helped sponsor a house being built here in Ft. Wayne. After that my grandmother became very involved with the program. When she got a free trip to build a house in El Salvador, I decided to join her."

For each house that is built in Ft. Wayne, $2000 is set aside to fund building projects all around the world. Just earlier this month, German got the chance to make a second trip back to El Salvador, this time accompanied by Hockney.

"There was never any doubt that I had to come back after my trip last year," German said. "I hope to go again next year, and then volunteer as a translator for other American groups once I finish college."

There were sixteen other volunteers of about every age that went with German and Hockney, traveling to volunteer while most Homestead students were enjoying Just Because Week.

While the main goal was to build the house, volunteers also got to experience much of the culture as well through festivals, local schools, and churches.

"The culture in El Salvador…is "calmate," or calm yourself," Hockney said. "In that country it is all about chilling and taking your time. El Salvador is its own country; it's amazing."

Much hard labor was required; each house is made completely of cement blocks. Volunteers had to mix, pour, and lay the blocks, then they would use a metal rod to chip away the dried cement that was left out of place on the walls. But despite all the hard work, German and Hockney give their experience high praise for what they experienced.

"I would recommend other students get involved with a program such as Habitat for Humanity," German said. "It really opens your eyes to see the different ways people live. You can see pictures of people living in poverty, but until you actually see it, it is hard to understand. Wherever you go to help, whether El Salvador or Ft. Wayne, the feeling of accomplishment is the same."

German and Hockney work on the house in El Salvador. The two spent a week in El Salvador working for Habitat for Humanity.

Helping students find a way

Impact School teaches students through independent studying

By Ashley Hockney, reporting by Austin Hetrick
Writer and Executive Editor

In what was once a sixth grade science classroom, removed from the Freshmen Academy by a locked door, is another school within Homestead itself. And although they may never step in the high school, students who attend Impact School will walk at graduation all the same.

A last resort for struggling students, Impact School remains an unknown option to the majority of students. Offering an alternative learning process, Impact School aims to help students who are near expulsion, failing their classes, might not graduate or are unable to deal with a normal high school setting.

"It's [college-like] in a way, minus lectures. We give students their work and they sit there and do it, if they have questions they can ask," Angela Green, the Impact School instructor, said. "It's almost like a study hall would be, but three hours long. [Students] have to decide what classes they want to work on when and how much time they want to spend on each class."

Each nine weeks students can choose to take one or two classes, depending on how many credits they need, and then whether they want to attend morning or afternoon sessions. During the duration of the quarter students come to school for three-hour classes. As students progress at their own individual pace, Green assists with any difficulties and assigns work for the week.

"You get your work done in three hour [classes]," Chelsey Koenes (11) said. "You know you have five packets due on Friday and you work at your own pace."

Koenes will graduate with the class of 2008 a semester early. She hopes to look into training big cats at a school in Florida following graduation.

Green's students must meet the normal curriculum standards and use the same materials, but with everyone working at their own pace, she teaches at a much more personal level.

"It's definitely different [than Homestead]," Green said. "I get to know the student better, know them, know their mom and dad's first names. I talk to them all the time."

Report cards and diplomas look exactly the same. Once students graduate it is unlikely that anyone would know they went to an alternative learning school. Students are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities and share Homestead's facilities.

"I definitely recommend Impact," Koenes said. "[At Homestead], while you are trying to work you are thinking 'my friends are doing this,' and worrying about other people when you need to just work, [and] with the time I get over here those things don't matter."

"There is rarely anybody that doesn't like it here and wants to leave," Green said.

Entrance into Impact School is often recommended by a counselor or friends of former students. Kids are urged to try to make the normal high schools work, but Impact School remains an option when everything else has been considered.

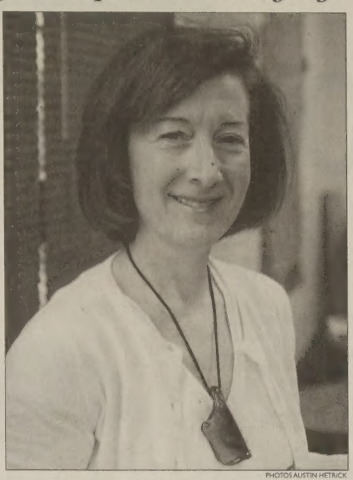
"You don't want someone to come here just because they got a low grade or failed a class," Green said. "It's kind of a last resort."

Green interviews incoming students to make sure they are ready for the experience and environment. Impact prefers upperclassmen, believing that underclassmen should give the normal high school life a try, but there are a few exceptions; students who fit the age group can even attend Impact after dropping out of school for a year or more.

"I was over at Homestead for my freshman and sophomore year before I heard about Impact," Koenes said. "I'm getting B's and doing better, tons better."

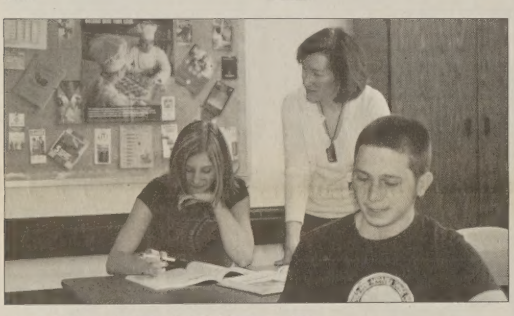
For Koenes and Impact School students, there are no passing periods, and students don't eat lunch with the rest of the school. Yet Impact students are not entirely cut off from student interaction.

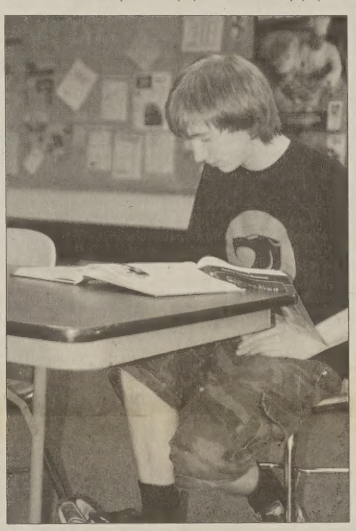
"I have made friends, it's just not as big of school," Koenes said. "You don't have to dress a certain way, do this or do that, over here people just come in and you start talking to them."



PHOTOS AUSTIN HETRICK

Above: Angela Green, Impact School's instructor. Below: Ajay Cousineau (11) studies in a morning session. Below left: Green assists Chelsey Koenes (11) and Court Gilley (10).



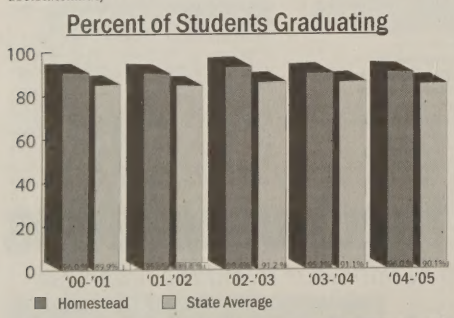


HOMESTEAD: BY THE NUMBERS

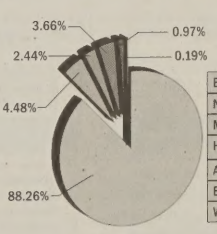
INFORMATION FROM INDIANA DOE

A quick glance at some of the most up-to-date statistics about Homestead High School available from the Indiana Department of Education. For more information on any Indiana school go to: http://www.doe.state.in.us/

Percent of Students Graduating



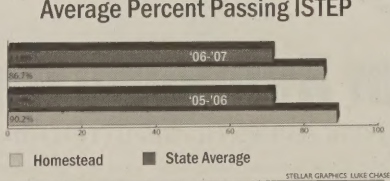
Student Population: Ethnic Divisions 2006-07



Total Student Population: 2052

Ethnicity	# of Students
Native American	4
Multiracial	20
Hispanic	50
Asian	75
Black	92
White	1811

Average Percent Passing ISTEP



STELLAR GRAPHICS LUKE CHASE

Cinderellas in March

By Emma Farnsworth
Columnist

March Madness is in full swing. Yay. Rah. I'm not a sports fan by any definition, but I do know that the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament is a big deal. I like to say the fun words that only come out this time of year, like "brackets!" and "Marquette!" and "Villanova!" and "Gonzaga!" (although I think the term "Big Dance" is kind of lame). I've learned from glancing through my brother's Sports Illustrated and overhearing the yelly guys on ESPN that college basketball is considered more "pure" than professional sports – these athletes have real, unpaid passion. It's about the game, it's about the team, it's about the pride. Not to mention the fact that the players' futures, not just a few extra endorsement contracts, are riding on these games. I hate watching the games, because there are few things worse than seeing the dreams of a team of young men crushed on the hardwood floors, trampled by the other, happy guys rushing to cut down the net. One bad game, and you're out – you go on to become a mid-level manager at a plastic company, not a multimillionaire with his own brand of shoes.

"And why are people disappointed about this year's Final Four, Emma?" my dad asked as we walked our dog. I do not know why the male members of my family like to quiz me on sports-related matters, asking questions they already know the answers to just to show how ignorant I am.

"Um, the teams are all from the same area?" I have no idea.

"There's no Cinderella story. All of the teams were highly ranked going into the tournament."

America loves an underdog. We are the country where dreams come true via hard work, talent, and a little luck. I don't think there is any way to AVOID it – every sports movie I have ever seen has captured the drama of a flawed, hopeless team shaping up and winning it all. They overcome – they are the Mighty Ducks, the Titans, the Hoosiers, the Bears, the Whatever Air Bud's Team Was Called. Even though I don't know what a point guard does, I can relate to the universal desire to see the little guy succeed. Whether it's a tiny team from the middle of nowhere or Jennifer Lopez in Maid in Manhattan (on TBS this weekend – how appropriate), we hope for the happily ever after.

Last weekend, I went to see my friend Jenna Bruin dance as the Autumn Fairy in Fort Wayne Ballet's production of Cinderella. The Sunday matinée was crawling with little girls in poufy princess costumes, some with tiaras and wands. The four year-olds in front of me were impatient during the first act, when Cinderella is still sweeping the floor in her rags, but they all settled down as soon as the Fairy Godmother appeared in a puff of smoke and the glittering "Season Fairies" came to bring Cinderella magical gifts (fairies are so much more attractive than mice friends). Watching Jenna leap gracefully across the floor in her flaming tutu, I was as mesmerized as the little girls.

At their age, however, I did not aspire to be Cinderella – when I was four, I asked my grandmother to make me a Fairy Godmother costume for Halloween. I loved the idea of being magical and having a wand, and I practiced waving strands of dry pasta in the air while singing "Bippity Boppity Boo." Why would I want to slave away like silly Cinderella when I could just have all that power at my fingertips? Unfortunately, we are not born with the capacity to turn pumpkins into carriages with a flick of the wrist. If there is one thing I've learned from watching Jenna, it's that it takes hours of grueling practice and many long and boring rehearsals to achieve magic. When not encased in the pink toe shoes, her feet are hardly pretty. Like Cinderella, though, Jenna doesn't complain. She performs the chores. She misses some of the royal balls (well, MORP at least). Yet just like Cinderella, she keeps singing while she sweeps, her eye on the prize – even better than a prince, her night to shine on stage will come. She doesn't need that Fairy Godmother, because she has talent. And even better than talent, she has what made all those little girls fall in love with Cinderella in the first place: a good work ethic and a positive attitude. Even after midnight, when the ball is over, the audience has gone home, and the confetti has been swept off the basketball court, real Cinderellas are still smiling. Magic like theirs doesn't wear off.

Academic Decathlon takes second place

Regional competition will be held on April 17 at Harding

By David Greco
Writer

Extra-curricular activities usually come down to athletics and sporting events. Despite the prevalence of this idea, many students try to take part in more curriculum-based competitions. The Academic Decathlon and Superbowl teams provide this need for students around the school.

"[Decathlon and Superbowl] get kids involved in academics rather than just sports," Jon Baker, coordinator for both teams, said.

Indiana Academic Decathlon is a statewide competition that consists of a nine-person team representing each participating school. Each member of the team must compete in all ten of the events which include: language arts/literature, math, science, economics, fine arts, science, speech, interview, essay, and super quiz. One factor that makes the activity unique is the need for three Honors ("A") students, three Scholastic ("B") students, and three Varsity ("C") students.

"It was a fun experience but stressful at times," Vivian Nguyen (11) said. "The competitions were challenging but at the end of the day it was really exciting because of the awards."

The Decathlon team starts practicing in October and starts competing in January. The first competition was the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) meet at Homestead and received first place, therefore moving on to state competition. The team has made it to state for five years in a row and this year received eighth over all.

An interest for students may come with the topics in which the decathlon is revolved around. While this year's topic was China, next year will focus on the American Civil War.

Another team that uses academics for competition is the Academic Superbowl team. Instead of focusing on a team effort, Academic Superbowl is a more individual category basis. Using different events which include: English, Science, Fine Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Interdisciplinary, a mixture of all the events, the team covers an overall topic that pertains to each event. This year's topic was the English Renaissance (1500-1690) and used the time period to help find competition ideas.

"Academic Superbowl lets you take an interest in a subject and learn a lot about it," Chase Seely (11) said.

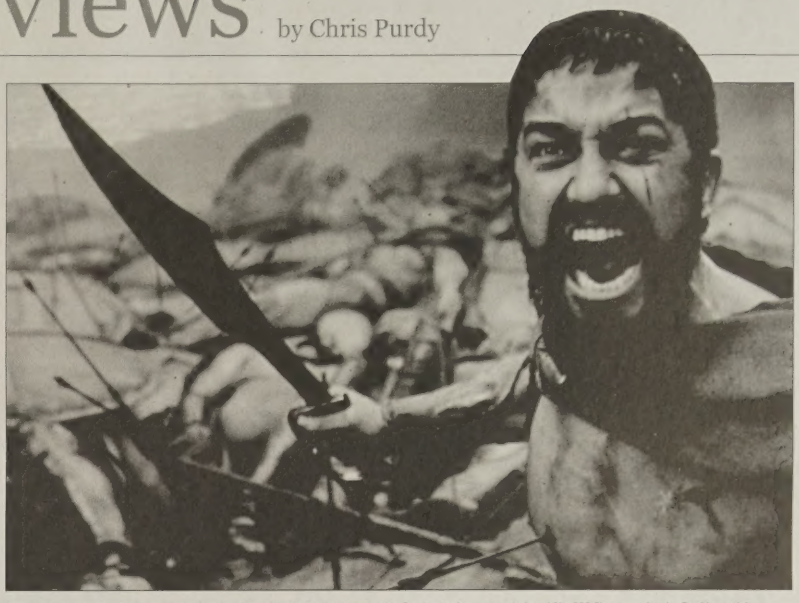
Just recently, the team competed in the NHC meet at Norwell High School on March 5th and placed 2nd as a team. Instead of receiving team scores this next competition, each separate category will be competed alone. The regional competition will be held on April 17th at Harding High School. Each category is competing for a place in the state competition.

"We will dominate like the Indianapolis Colts," Baker said.

The academics teams add to the variety of groups in the school. They allow for students to take part in activities that interest them without being confined to just studying for school. The Academic Decathlon and Superbowl teams will start again next year with new topics that appeal to a wide range of students. While any competition can be exciting, it is important that all students have the opportunity to partake in such activities.

filmreviews by Chris Purdy

300



Gerard Butler portraying the fierce Spartan king, Leonidas, charging into battle against the Persians in the comic strip-based film *300*. Photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

If you haven't seen *300* yet, you're either living under a rock or you've decided that it isn't your type of movie. This would make sense, because at first glance, the film seems to cater to a small cult audience: young adult males who read graphic novels, play video games, and enjoy lots of gory violence.

Not surprisingly, though, this isn't such a small demographic after all. In fact, this film is raking in so much cash and getting so much publicity, one could assume the entire country is made up of nothing but comic book fan boys. The biggest March release ever, everyone is talking about *300*.

As anyone can gather from the wildly popular trailer, the movie is all about style and presentation. The computer-graphics-enhanced cinematography is simply remarkable, especially considering that it's virtually a perfect shot-for-shot adaptation of Frank Miller's also popular graphic novel (a medium that, in my opinion, is not as well respected in literature as it should be). The camera placement, color schemes, landscapes…everything is just dynamic. The film is also brutal, bloody, and with all those ridiculously buff soldiers hurling spears and bashing each other with shields, it's one of the manliest movies in quite a while.

The novel that the film is based upon is a fictionalized, stylish, over-the-top retelling of the famous Battle of Thermopylae during the Greco-Persian Wars. As the 'God-King' Xerxes of Persia closes in to subjugate Greece with allegedly close to a million men, the politicians in Sparta do nothing. One of the council members is even scheming with the Persian king. When a messenger of Persia comes to Sparta to ask for 'submission' to the will of Xerxes, King Leonidas knows he cannot stand idly by. Like all Spartan men, he has been bred and trained from a very young age to fight, die, and never surrender.

He executes the messenger party, knowing full well the consequences, and as Spartan law dictates, he asks the oracle what he should do about the crisis. She has a premonition and tells him not to fight and that Sparta will be destroyed. Since the council will not go against the word of the oracle, they refuse to send the army to confront the invading Persians.

Leonidas takes matters into his own hands by marching a small force of only 300 men to the narrow valley of Thermopylae on the coast, where they block themselves into the opening of a canyon to try to stop or at least slow the immense Persian Army.

Spartans are known throughout the world, and throughout history still for their valor and ingenuity in combat. Each man protects the person to his left with his shield, and it is this flawless coordination that gives them the ultimate advantage.

The first wave of enemy soldiers, numbering in the thousands, is completely slaughtered, with Spartan casualties being few to none—believe it or not, this is also how it happened in real life. As the battle rages on, the Spartans push forward with few losses, and the bodies pile high. They continue this relentlessly to their own tragic end.

300 is definitely not for everyone. Though there are plenty of members of the opposite sex who think this movie is awesome, it is still, in every sense of the term, a 'guy's movie'. It's all about the action, and the finesse with which the action is executed. It's surprisingly accessible given its aim and its source material, but its distinctiveness also makes it a love-it or hate-it movie. Both critics and moviegoers are extremely divided: it's either an amazing masterpiece of modern cinema, or it's a laughable melodrama of cheesy dialogue and special effects. You be the judge.

To me, the dialogue and overacting are excusable. It is, after all, taken directly from a comic book. The same goes for the special effects. However, I don't find this movie absolutely amazing, nor do I find it in any way bad. It's just good. Extremely fun, and ridiculously cool, but just good. The silly dialogue, though somewhat acceptable, really doesn't help the movie.

In the end, all we're left with is blood, great visuals, some nudity, and heavy metal…but, if you're looking for *Gladiator* on crack, or you're just a male, for that matter, you're in for one helluva a great ride.

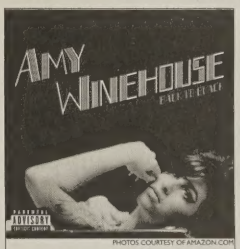
Starring Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, David Wenham, directed by Zack Snyder

Purdy's Rating: ★★★

albumreviews by Brad Lufkin

Back to Black

By Amy Winehouse



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Released March 13, 2007

Shortly fading away after her first album, *Frank* in 2003, Amy Winehouse has come back to sing again after a short intermission.

Her newest album, *Back to Black*, was first released in England in Oct. of 2006, going double platinum. Just recently released in the United States, the album takes inspiration from the soul girl groups of the 1960's.

As before, in her first album, she composes each of her songs and draws from her own experiences, which range from bittersweet love stories to her involvement with drugs, making it a diverse record.

"Rehab," opens the second album from the British soul singer. Its Motown-style and its beat allows "Rehab" to start off the album on a good note.

The title track is probably the smoothest and most clean-cut song on the CD, capturing the entire album in four short minutes. Its multiple tempo changes and nice backing vocals just add to its charm.

"Tears Dry on Their Own" pays respect to the classic soul song "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," while even containing a small sample of the song. It starts off with nice musical percussion and culminates into a great tune.

One of the only complaints that could be said of the album is the fact that it's not even 35 minutes long, leaving the listener a bit empty, but also leaving the listener wanting more.

Winehouse is a clever songs stylist, with pop and indie fans and hip-hoppers can enjoy.

Costello Music

By The Fratellis

Released March 13, 2007

The Arctic Monkeys of 2007, the Fratellis released their debut album in the United States on Mar. 13, 2007, after previously being released in the UK in Sept., 2006.

The Fratellis don't take themselves seriously at all when they sing, which is a good thing. *Costello Music* is an effortless masterpiece. They sing to have fun, creating music just for the sake of making great music.

The first thing a listener may notice is a song that sounds uncannily familiar, "Flathead," only to realize that it was showcased in an iPod commercial. It alternates from forceful and hip-shaking verses and an excited and catchy chorus with "ba da bop a dah" hooks, which are a definite strength for The Fratellis.

Meanwhile, "For the Girl," filled with approximately 151 "la's" (I counted), has a melody so hot that it was just destined to be a hit.

"Doginabag" adds some bluesy sound to their style with guitar that sounds straight from the '60's, achieving their goal.

"Creepin' Up the Back Stairs," is a nod to '50's rock, while adding some indie-rock to the album. It starts with a nice drum solo with clapping, and then the guitar joins, and finally the vocals. It's exceedingly easy to catch yourself wanting to just get up and move when this song comes on.

"Got Ma Nuts from a Hippy" adds some twangy, complex rhythms, keeping the spotlight on the multiple air guitar opportunities. One of the big numbers is "Baby Fratelli" has sing-along effortlessness with its nice guitar riffs in the background of the verses.

musicreview by Greg Kyes-Myland

It's really an unexplainable feeling. The energy of the place is mellow, but at the same time, very intense. Something about the combination of people's care-free attitudes and blissful smiles in the sunny late-afternoon makes a Dave Matthews Band (DMB) concert so unmistakably…. "Dave." That's really the only way to describe a DMB concert: it was "Dave." Unfortunately, this unconventional adjective really only has a definition for those who have experienced a concert first-hand, but I think the rest of you know what I'm trying to get at. Like I said, it's unexplainable.

With spring now in full swing, it is also officially Dave season. Of course there's no law that says you can't listen to Dave in the winter; I do it all the time. Sometimes it's the only thing that gets me through the cold and cruddy Indiana weather.

But there's just nothing like driving in the spring and summer with DMB turned all the way up and just cruising (windows down, of course). Not to mention the most important factor: summer equals Dave live!

Yes! But wait—the band isn't even beginning their U.S. tour until August (apparently Dave wants to spend time with his wife and baby or something trivial like that). And, in case you haven't heard, they're selling the Verizon Center in Noblesville.

I wish I knew for sure when all this was happening, and I wish I knew for sure if there was a chance that Dave is going to play there one last time, but I don't. With all this upsetting news, the only thing to do is turn to the next best thing to Dave Matthews live: Dave Matthews live on CD.

Dave has released numerous live recordings, all of which are spectacular. However, I don't hesitate for one second when I say that the band's *Live Trax Volume Six, Live at Fenway Park* is one of the best live recording albums the band has released. Now, there is a chance I'm just biased, considering this album was recorded just last summer, so it is somewhat nostalgic to me, and it is recorded at the best baseball park in the world. But really, there are many factors that make this live album truly outstanding.

But as you push through the crowd... you smile because you've just experienced something that can only be described as "Dave."

Greg Kyes-Myland
Writer

The massive two-day, four-disk album covers it all. There are all the classics for you traditionalists, like "Satellite," "Ants Marching," and "Crash Into Me." But it's the mixture of tracks like, "Pig," "Bartender," "One Sweet World," and "Hunger for the Great Light" that gives the overall album a very unique gravity. Also, the presence of previously unreleased material always makes a live album special; both "The Idea of You" and "Break Free" are great new songs that provide a very promising outlook to future DMB studio releases.

The sound quality of the album is absolutely impeccable, as if you are at the concert but without the drunken guy next to you screaming, "Will you marry me Dave!"

Everyone in the band is rightfully represented because that's one thing that bothers me: yes, it's called the Dave Matthews Band, but Carter Beauford, Boyd Tinsley, Stefan Lessard, and Leroi Moore are just as incredible as anything else on the musical planet, and their talent is certainly showcased throughout the album, especially in the jam sessions that tangent off of songs like "Grace is Gone," "Dancing Nancies," or the emotionally-charged closing song, "Two Step."

Leaving a Dave Matthews Band concert has a feeling just as unexplainable as attending one in the first place, but a little different. The sunny afternoon is traded in for a starry night, and the blissful faces have become slightly glum at the thought of something so wonderful ending.

But as you push through the crowd, being extra careful not to lose your flip-flops that have become sticky in god-knows-what, you smile because you've just experienced something that can only be described as "Dave."

Fans of the band often say, "If you see DMB once, you'll figure out a way to see them again." But until that time, go for a ride with the windows down and pick up this album - it might just hold you over until August.

PHOTOS BY SUZIE REECER

Between Midnight Madness, Dirty Duckers students have had their dose of

DODGEBALL

1

2

3

7

1. Nick Edwards (11) complains to one of the referees on a call. Edward's team was called repeatedly for violations, in spite of Edward's arguments. 2. Coach Josh Butcher (12) and team members Megan Bulloch (12), Allison Douglas (12), Meghan Koontz (12) and Kelli Ford (12) get hyped for a match.

3. Stephanie Mitchell (12), Isa Ohler (12) and Syma Raza (12) contest a call with the referees. 4. Katie Veith (12) winds up for a throw in the championship game against the junior team. Veith and the senior team won the game. 5. Erica Merrifield (12) hugs Lindsay Baker (12) after winning their semi-final game. Merrifield and Baker were beaten by Veith's team in the senior final round. 6. Tony Krause (12) throwing a ball in an early round of the Midnight Madness game. 7. Michael Cobb (12) rears to throw

4

5

6

issue 12 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

the Spartana

Friday, April 27, 2007

Spring Sportraits

Each Johnston (12) and the state of spring sports are sharper than ever. Photos on page 4B

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Meg Warner (12) performs a solo Tuesday at the spring arts convention.

Choir places at Branson competition

First performance at national level

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

Class Royale and Elite participated in the Show Choir Cup sponsored by Fame in Branson, Missouri. After eleven hours on a bus, the groups arrived ready to perform and to cap off their season at their first national event.

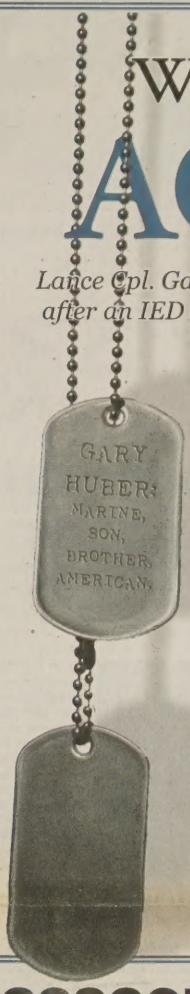
The choirs left Homestead on Thursday, April 12 mid-day and made the trek to Branson. The long bus ride was followed by Class Royale's three performances – once in preliminaries, once in semifinals, and again in finals – and a third place finish for the mixed choir.

"Homestead has never traveled to what is considered an absolutely legitimate national competition," Dr. Keith Touchton, the choir director, said. "Fame does about a dozen [competitions] around the coun-

See Show Choir on page 2A

WOUNDED IN ACTION

Lance Cpl. Gary Huber ('06) is expected to make a full recovery after an IED explosion. Undaunted, he hopes to return to Iraq.



By Austin Hetrick and Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editors

Somewhere in a Balad, Iraq, military base—shelved, tagged, and stored—are the personal effects of a Lance Corporal from Fort Wayne. Taken from his uniform and scooped from the sand as he was rushed from an explosion last Monday, an iPod and a wallet await their owner's return. Their owner, Gary Huber ('06), is lucky to be alive. According to Huber's mother, however, someday soon he hopes to pick up his effects and go back to work.

"The doctor said he's expected to make a full recovery," Huber's mother Cheryl said.

On April 16, Huber and four other marines were patrolling near Fallujah/Baghdad when their vehicle ran into an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Huber was thrown from the vehicle. Cheryl Huber said her son had two broken legs, shattered vertebrae, a broken ankle, and second-degree burns on his arms.

Two of the other Marines in the vehicle were killed by the explosion.

"Other than pain he feels reasonably good," Cheryl Huber said. "He feels bad for the friends that he's lost and, of course, he's a little worried about the next few months."

Following the explosion, Huber was flown to Germany where he underwent surgery on his back Thursday.

"The doctor said [the surgery] went well," she said. "He also has broken legs and needs to have them set and casted, but as soon as he can put weight on the legs, the doctor expects Gary to walk."

Gary arrived at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, Sunday. From there he was moved to San Diego for further treatment. His family will visit him there.

"We're just waiting for the military right now," she said. "We asked if we could visit him in Germany when he was there but the military said 'no' because he wasn't staying there long. It's stretched out a little further than we

See Huber on page 2A

BRINGING THE war HOME
PART II OF III

See Part II of 'Bringing the War Home' on page 8A.

Students and staff with connections to the war speak out on why we should stay the course in Iraq and why the War on Terror has to be won. Also, see page 3A for a letter by Ashley Heath (10).

Massacre prompts security review for Indiana colleges

Senior pole-vaulter, VT coach, student discuss security in choosing a college

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

As the nation mourned for victims at Virginia Tech last week, colleges across the country took stock of their own security programs. For the 495 seniors here, many of whom will attend Indiana universities this fall, last Monday's shooting may prompt change.

"The biggest problem that any campus like ours has is communication with all of the people on campus," IPFW Chancellor Michael Wartrell said in an interview with local television. "So we're looking for better ways to communicate with our students when an emergency occurs. What you would like is some kind of signal to students to get information, check e-mail, talk to an official, watch the television, something like that."

Last week, the state's major universities announced they were reviewing their security procedures. Indiana University - Bloomington's President-Elect Michael McRobbie is also focusing on finding new ways of informing students during an emergency.

"I think one of the areas that has come up consistently is having a multiplicity of ways to communicate with the university community on each campus," McRobbie said.

Some colleges are considering, among other options, batch text messages to students to alert them of a situation.

Attack hits close to home for senior pole-vaulter

Hunter Hall (12) was recruited to vault for Virginia Tech in November. He still plans to attend the school next year.

"In this day and age, safe is a relative term," Hunter's mom, Alicia Hall, said. "So much violence on educational campuses raises the question of 'what is actually safe?' If anything, security measures at Virginia Tech will probably be heightened in the future."

See Virginia Tech on page 2A

BRIEFS

WOODLAN HEARING

Tomorrow Woodlan high school journalism advisor Amy Sorrell is scheduled for a public hearing where she could be dismissed. Sorrell's publication published an editorial which the school's principal deemed inappropriate last month.

RADIO SECOND AT STATE

("The Point" 91.1 FM) team took second at state. Led by Joe Asher, radio director, and Adam Schenkel, station manager, students submitted fourteen entries. Winners included Jake Lemon (12), Chris Jorgenson (11), and Julian Shine (12). The station as a finished second in the competition for the "Radio School of the Year."

PROM PLANS SET

The 2007 Prom will take place on May 19th. The dance will be at the Grand Wayne Center. The event will begin at 8 p.m. and will last until midnight. The theme for the dance this year is Casino Royale, the James Bond 007 movie to correlate with the 2007 graduating year.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: Stories ctd.
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial:Kimmel writes on effects of poverty
PAGE 4A, Life: Autism stats rise
PAGE 5A, Life: Key Club continues to volunteer in various activities
PAGE 6A, Life: Missions trips over spring break give students once-in-lifetime opportunities
PAGE 7A, Life: 'Grindhouse' is great mix of genres, effects says Chris Purdy
PAGE 8A, News: War supporters
PAGE 1B, Sports: Baseball leads off
PAGE 2B, Sports: Johnson, Recht lead girls tennis
PAGE 3B, Sports: Phenom-freshman golfer joins team
PAGE 4B, Photo Essay: Sportraits

Rumors dispelled: Smith speaks

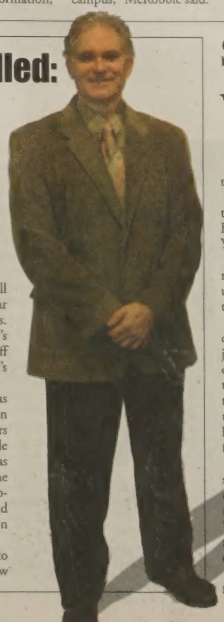
By Ashley Hockney,
Reporting By Lee Farnsworth
Writers

After conducting a nation-wide search and examining several candidates, Homestead's new principal comes from within our own school district. Rick Smith, the current principal of Woodside Middle School, will transition to the high school next year in hopes of implementing his new ideas. With his acceptance as the school's principal, Smith is working with staff members and adjusting to the school's environment.

"Since my announcement that I was going to take the position I've been here a lot, just trying to talk to teachers and get in on the pieces of the puzzle that are going to affect me next year as principal," Smith said. "I think that the nexus of things in my life had come together with a Homestead position and so in December I decided to throw in my name."

Smith, who stayed at Woodside to help finish the construction of the new

See Smith on page 2A



Spring arts week ends with coffee house tonight

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

pot-ter, noun: one that makes pottery

Andrew Schroeder (12) is many things. Student, brother, boyfriend, Frisbee player, cross-country runner. Yet few know him as a potter.

This week, however, his achievements in plaster, clay, and pottery are under the lights, just one contribution to spring arts week.

Schroeder's pots, along with student-produced paintings, sketches, jewelry, film, and photographs, are displayed in the community rooms tonight from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Visitors to the school are also invited to the National Honors Society coffeehouse. Admission is free, and coffee is for sale.

"My goal is to showcase individual student work and to promote various course offerings within our department," art teacher Cindy Husar said. "So often people are not aware of the many opportunities Homestead offers or of how talented our students are."

Heather Moore (12) is hosting a few pieces in the show and regards the display as a nice experience for both students that are displaying work and those who are simply viewing it.

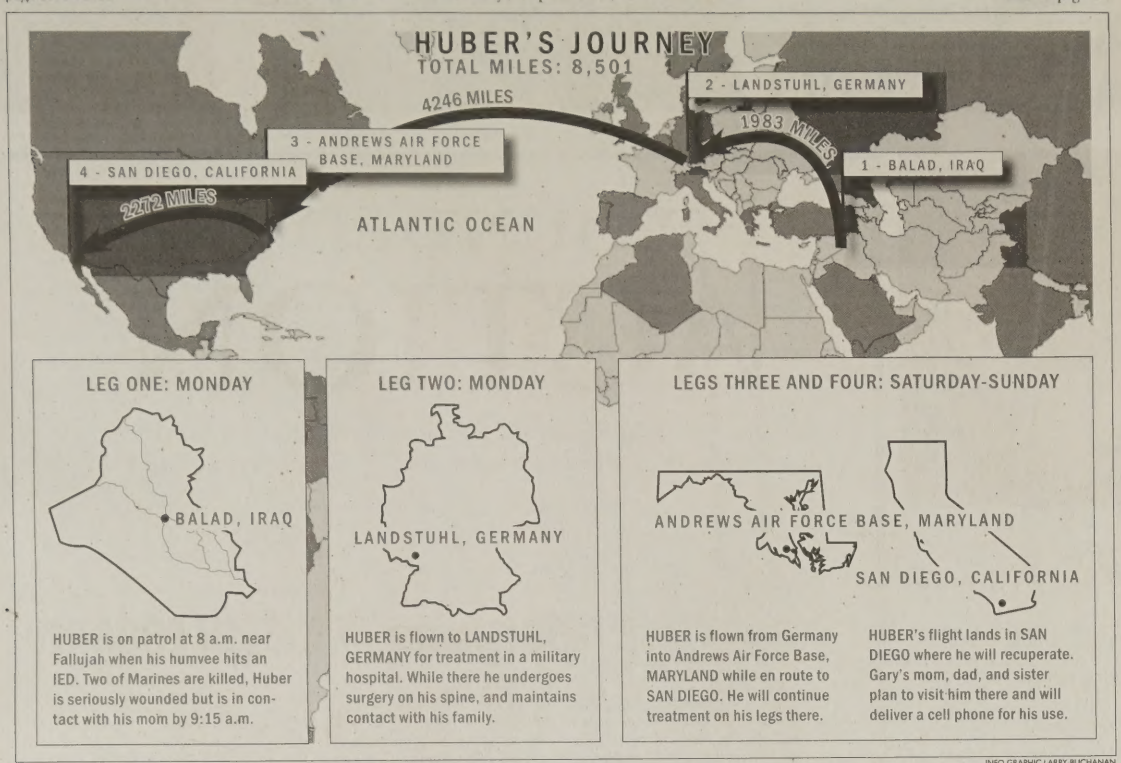
"It's a great way for other people to see and appreciate what you do," Moore said.

At tonight's coffeehouse Larry Buchanan (12) and Greg Kyes (11) will

See Spring Arts on page 2A

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Anna Orlowe (10) performs during the spring arts convocation.


HUBER'S JOURNEY
TOTAL MILES: 8,501
4246 MILES
1983 MILES
2272 MILES
2 - LANDSTUHL, GERMANY
3 - ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND
4 - SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
1 - BALAD, IRAQ
ATLANTIC OCEAN
LEG ONE: MONDAY
BALAD, IRAQ
HUBER is on patrol at 8 a.m. near Fallujah when his humvee hits an IED. Two of Marines are killed, Huber is seriously wounded but is in contact with his mom by 9:15 a.m.
LEG TWO: MONDAY
LANDSTUHL, GERMANY
HUBER is flown to LANDSTUHL, GERMANY for treatment in a military hospital. While there he undergoes surgery on his spine, and maintains contact with his family.
LEGS THREE AND FOUR: SATURDAY-SUNDAY
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
HUBER is flown from Germany into Andrews Air Force Base, MARYLAND while en route to SAN DIEGO. He will continue treatment on his legs there.
HUBER's flight lands in SAN DIEGO where he will recuperate. Gary's mom, dad, and sister plan to visit him there and will deliver a cell phone for his use.

INFO GRAPHIC LARRY BUCHANAN

Huber, continued from 1A

expected but we hope to see him soon."

When Huber's family arrives in San Diego they plan on giving Gary a cell phone so that he can communicate with family and friends while he recuperates.

The explosion occurred at about 8 a.m., Monday. By 9:15 a.m., Cheryl said she was already on the phone with her son and he knew "pretty much what his injuries were."

Since then, his family's been in contact with him regularly.

Cheryl said her son, who had already received a concussion Feb. 16, hopes to return to Iraq.

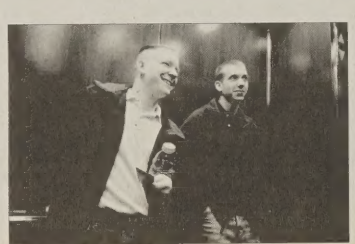
"I don't want him to go back. I'm relieved that he's home and I definitely hope that he gets well enough to be back and stay in the Marines, but I'd just like him to be anywhere but Iraq," C. Huber said.

The last time Gary was home was Christmas. He deployed in January.

Ron Brown ('06), a long-time friend and fellow Marine, called the Huber home on Sunday. Brown recently arrived in Iraq and he has not seen Huber since boot camp. Brown enlisted with Huber last February.

Social studies teacher Jon Baker had Gary in his World History and World War II class.

Baker first heard of Huber's injury last Wednesday, at which time Baker called Huber's parents to confirm what had happened.



Ron Brown ('06) and Gary Huber ('06) wait in a hotel prior to taking their enlistment oaths. Both men enlisted last February in the Marines.

Next month, Baker plans on donating the proceeds from the annual Walk-a-thon to a fund that allows people to visit their wounded family members wherever they are being treated.

"Gary's sister mentioned that many of the [servicemen] in similar situations don't have enough money to handle this kind of situation...hopefully this can help both Gary's family and other families," Baker said.

The Walk-a-thon will be held May 18, and students are invited to participate during their Social Studies and P.E. Classes. All money proceeds will go directly to the marine fund.

In order to raise as much money as possible, Baker said anyone who wants to attend is welcome.

"I'm hoping to get some veterans to attend... anyone who wants to can come over and walk with us. The more money that is generated, the more people it will help," Baker said.

Originally, Baker planned on donating the Walk-a-thon proceeds to Gary's parents, but said the injured soldier wouldn't hear of it.

"We originally set it up just for Gary, but he said no way. He wanted others to get help too," Baker said.

Smith, continued from 1A

building and ensure the progression of certain programs, was known at the middle school as a principal of reform. However, he has the opposite plan in mind for the high school during his beginning years.

"I've got various things that come to mind, but I don't know that next year is so much about change, but for me to see what here see what Homestead is about," Smith said. "The first year for me will be learning more about [Homestead's environment] and then determine if there are things that I can tweak here and there."

However, Smith does plan to make a few changes regarding technology.

At Woodside, Smith introduced portable laptops that are used daily in classrooms. Because Homestead's current goal is to become wireless by next year, Smith is considering implementing a similar change at this school, introducing laptops to complement work done in man of the computer labs.

"I think there is a lot of availability of technology that could help teachers that maybe they don't even know about," Smith said. "What I would be interested in doing next year is to investigate what those options are and present them to staff members to see if it is something that could be a benefit to teachers and their classroom."

Smith also stresses the need to utilize resources the school currently has.

"It's not just about computers and hardware," Smith said. "It's more about how to use the software where it's appropriate. More importantly, it's about [finding] the right tool to make learning a more profitable outcome for student."

In regards to other changes, despite the popular rumor, Smith has no plans to change dress code or eliminate gum at this time.

"Sometimes you can think things are issues that really aren't. I think what we need to do as administrators is to address the things that are really important and really do affect learning at Homestead."

One of Smith's key goals is to increase the "synergy" of the SACS district as a whole.

"I see the need for connectivity between what our expectations are [and] what our outcomes are for graduates in terms of their preparation," Smith said. " [We need to] think backwards about what we need to be doing from the elementary, more of a K-12 look at how that student needs to be prepared."

Smith also commented on another controversial topic–drug testing.

"My perspective is that it has been a positive influence on the middle school. The whole program has been useful and served a purpose, and if we continue to get grant funding—as long as we can see a positive impact–I can assume that we will continue to get grants [and continue the program]." Smith said.

Drug testing, and other key programs, will be under review in the first years of Smith's tenure by the school board.

Virginia Tech, continued from 1A

Security was not a concern when choosing a university for her son, Hall said. After the shootings; however, Hall admits things have changed.

"I will be just as safe at VT as Homestead," Hunter Hall said. "The main thing we should all be thinking about is not that VT is any safer or less safe than somewhere else, we should be thinking of the families who were hurt by this tragedy and keeping them in our prayers. Hopefully, through all of the coverage, some people will realize that VT shouldn't be singled out as "The Massacré School," but the school should be looked at just as any other educational facility."

Hunter's mom shares some of his confidence in the school.

"Safety never crossed my mind during the college hunt," Hall said. "It will be important for me to see what changes occur on the Virginia Tech campus in regards to campus security and safety for all students. I trust that Hunter has good judgment and is in good hands at Virginia Tech."

At Virginia Tech, security is undergoing massive changes. VT track coach Bob Phillips says that parents should still feel safe sending their kids off to college.

"Historically, [Virginia Tech] has been an extremely safe campus. Most schools, including Virginia Tech, take extensive precautions to keep students safe," Phillips said. "That is not to say that parents and students shouldn't think about security issues, but the unfortunate truth is that it could have occurred anywhere."

Nina Lahham, a freshman at Virginia Tech, returned to classes Monday.

"I still feel safe on campus...considering [what happened]," Lahham said. "Situations like these can really happen anywhere. I feel like no one would have seen this coming. I know now Tech will definitely tighten up the security a great deal, so it's probably safer now than ever before."

For Lahham, safety was a concern in choosing a university, and was one of the reasons she chose VT. In her first year she's experienced two shootings on campus: last Monday's and an Aug. 20 shooting of two campus security officers close to the beginning of classes.

"There were schools I deliberately did not apply to because I thought safety would be an issue," Lahham said. "I really thought Blacksburg [VA] would have been the last place something like this would happen. I don't know anyone who is thinking about transferring because of this tragedy, which says a lot about our community in Blacksburg. Things like these make us realize how fragile life is and reminds us not to take things granted."

"During my college years I don't ever recall being afraid or even thinking about safety issues," Alicia Hall said. "It would be naïve of me not to recognize the dangers all students face today as opposed to when I was in school. It seems that due to moral decline, violence from Hollywood, and vulgar music, our world has become a much more evil place."

Spring Arts, continued from 1A

emcee and many local bands are scheduled to perform.

"The NHS Coffee House is just a great place for kids to come hangout and listen to music," organizer Stephania Turkette (12) said. "It takes a lot of effort, but it's all worth it when it's over."

Any profit from the event will go toward the National Honors Society.

Although spring arts week officially closes tonight with the coffeehouse, the school's spring musical, "Crazy For You" opens next Friday, May 4th, reviving the arts one more time.

A third component of the arts week was the convocation on Tuesday, where students watched as the dance team, Class Royale Show Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Elite Show Choir, Winter Guard and the Orchestra performed.

"It's really cool to see what other kids are doing these days," Ethan Radalian (11) said. "It's neat that we get the time out of class to watch the assembly."

"I think spring arts week is great for people to see and understand what show choir and other fine arts groups are and possibly become interested in them," Class Royale member Shannon Olbin (11) said. "Performing in front of our peers makes me really nervous but excited at the same time."

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Lori Panyard (11) performs during the show choir's convocation routine. Panyard and other performing artists performed for two hours.

Show choir, continued from 1A

try. Their major primary weekend is the Show Choir Cup, [and] that's the competition that is probably the most prestigious to go to and win or do well at."

But apart from Class Royale taking third, both choirs got to travel outside of Indiana and see choirs that were the best of the best.

"It was a huge competition!" Shannon Olbin (11), a member of Elite, said. "We saw groups that we had never even heard of and it was interesting to see different show designs. ....The other choirs did an amazing job."

"It's so easy to compete in your backyard and get used to the DeKalbs and the Centergroves," Dr. Touchton said. "But there are groups out there that make DeKalb and us look like small fry. I feel my job is to get our students exposed to that and to see that if [other choirs] can do that, we can do that."

While the choirs have known since the beginning of the year that they would be traveling to Branson, the size of the competition – 15 groups from 12 different schools from across the nation - took many by surprise.

"To be frank I didn't think we'd be really much of a show, I guess it was going to be more of let's watch other groups and see what they do to make us better next year," Omar Nader (11) said. "But we have had regular practices and had several competitions to get us prepared for our big debut."

Behind the scenes of the vocals and choreography is the backup band, Anonymous Blue, who has performed with the choirs since the beginning of the competition season. And while they give the choirs the music they need, Anonymous Blue also racks up awards throughout the season.

"We won best back up band a total of four times this season (twice for Elite, once for Class Royal, then once more in Branson along with Best Horn Section)," band member Logan Haffner (11) said.

After a grand champion placement for Class Royale in the Huntington Midwest Showcase and an overall successful year, Dr. Touchton recognizes that the success of the choirs is a team effort.

"To be able to be competitive at the national level, you've got to have a team," Dr. Touchton said. "There's no way a single director can do all that, it's impossible. You've got to have those four, five or six people behind you doing what they do best."

As this season ends, Touchton and the choirs look ahead to tryouts in mid-May and another national competition next year, hoping for the same results a year from now.

page 3A
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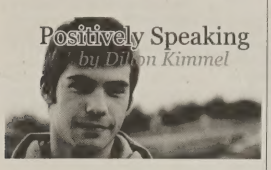
Opinion

What we forget: each morning is a miracle



I have seen real poverty. I have seen children with nothing but a single soiled shirt and a pair of decaying sandals. I have seen families of six or more hunkered down in a flimsy one-room shack as the storm raging outside threatens to destroy everything they own.

I have seen grown men whose only source of income consists of sifting through mountainous piles of garbage in search of any second-hand trinket that he can resell in a local market.

I have seen real happiness. I have seen children with nothing but a single soiled shirt and a pair of decaying sandals joke and play all day long, without once mentioning they haven't eaten since breakfast the day before.

I have seen families of six or more hunkered down in a flimsy one-room shack singing and telling stories, paying no attention to the storm raging outside.

And I have seen grown men proudly bring home the U.S. equivalent of fifty cents after an entire day of sifting through mountainous piles of garbage.

In three mission trips to third-world countries, I have never heard an impoverished person complain about the heat, or the stench, or the rumbling in their belly, or even their impending death. No, the poor do not complain because for millions of impoverished people around the world, survival is a privilege, not a right.

In America, driving is a privilege (speed and you will be pulled over). College is a privilege (your grades aren't up to par, the dreaded skinny letter gets dropped in your mailbox). Our job security is a privilege (you don't go to work, you get pink-slipped). But imagine, for just a moment, if 300 million Americans began to entertain the notion that our very survival is a privilege.

Americans are spoiled, pompous, naïve, self-centered, and corruptible. And no, that's not a bitter Middle Eastern radical offering up another listless rebuke. That's a fellow Yank sharing with you the truth. Comparatively speaking, we are those things and much more.

But we can change all that if we adopt a simple concept: that my and your survival is a privilege, something we must respect.

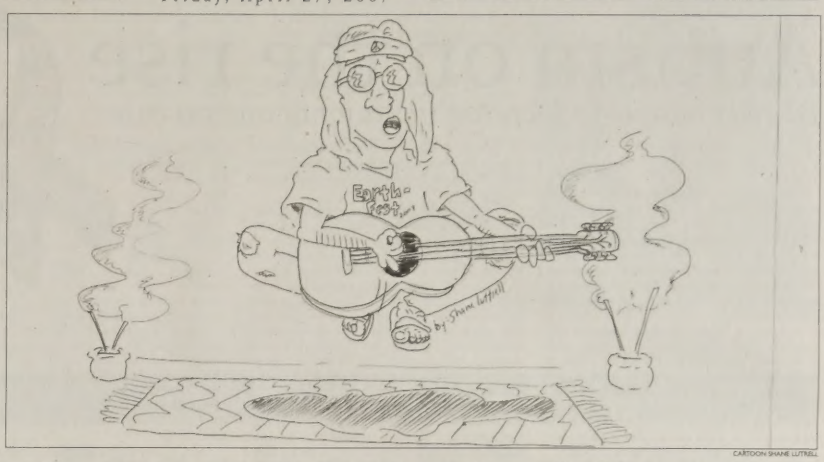
In America, we don't live with an abundance of uncertainty in our lives. We have been blessed with wealth many in this world can only imagine possessing. But even though we don't necessarily have to work very hard for our survival, it is imperative we recover that mind-set.

The poverty-stricken understand that concept because they live it each day. Food does not automatically appear on their dinner tables each night.

Sturdy woodwork and a strong roof do not guarantee their home will be standing come morning. And the family practice down the road does not provide immediate and reliable medical assistance whenever they get the flu. For the truly poor, each day is a new struggle.

But yet they run, and they work, and they smile, and they enjoy the life that they have been blessed with today because survival is a constant uncertainty, and in the same way that each day is a new struggle, each morning is a new miracle.

The Lord may giveth today, but He could easily taketh away tomorrow.



CARTOON SHANE LUTRELL

Education: reform, but for right reasons

For as long as this board can remember, we've witnessed competition.

A dad battles with other companies for dominance of the Fort Wayne market. A mom engages in silent competition with her friends over who has the nicest home, cars, and best-dressed daughter. Brothers wage digital warfare. And the kids in our classes tussle over who will be valedictorian.

But that's competition in miniature; the battle taking place over education reform on a national scale is equally fierce and more subtle.

Following the recommendations of a report by the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, Speaker of the Colorado House, Andrew Romanoff, is leading the charge to reshape education in his state.

Romanoff proposes: preschool and kindergarten for all Colorado students, doubling or even tripling teachers' salaries, the revamping of assessments for students to concentrate on critical, creative, and informative thinking, and the opportunity for well-qualified students to graduate high school after their sophomore years in order to attend college.

Now don't get us wrong. We're unopposed to Romanoff's suggestions and if Colorado succeeds in changing its education system, it may well jump ahead of many states in its students' results and scholarship. What the editorial board does object to, however, is the motivation behind these changes—the same motivation that drives brothers to fight, parents to struggle against their peers, and students to slave away in school—competition, the desire to beat the other guy.

At an April 13 press conference, Romanoff mentioned, (among other reasons), a desire to "maintain [America's] edge over other countries" as part of the motivation behind the proposed changes.

Countries like China, India, and Japan, he said, were gaining ground on America in the economic battlefield—nations once known as "our workshops" were beginning to compete with us. Implied, of course, was that having other countries compete with us is an intolerable position, one which must be corrected.

Enter education.

It's fascinating to us that 30 years after the Cold War, the United States continues to view itself in a state of constant conflict. Globalism, to Romanoff and others, is apparently dead—we shouldn't be working toward better lives for our own citizens, we should be working to best China, Japan, and India.

This competition is born from nationalism and World Wars, times when the United States had to physically contend with others for dominance. Today's society, however, is not dependent on physical conflict.

Education and technology should not be one more theater in the 21st century buildup...we shouldn't measure our test scores and student results like assets for a future war.

Does the board want Romanoff's plans to fail? Absolutely not. We believe his suggestions are exactly what our education system needs. At the same time, however, we must make these changes with the right goals in mind: the improvement of Americans' quality of life and giving all students an equal opportunity.

China, Japan, and Indian should never enter the equation. It is, as politics, sports, family, and friends prove, human nature to compete. But we cannot allow the children of Colorado or of the United States to be soldiers in a battle they have no business fighting.

Letter: terror must end before peace

Ashley Heath (10) writes in response to protesters on another 'path to peace'

Dear Editor,

The striking photograph of a protestor, eyes looking up, and the courthouse setting a picturesque backdrop appeared in the March 30th issue of the Spartana's Protesting for Peace article. The piece detailed the cause of eight Homestead students in their quest to make a difference through political activism.

The story makes a point to describe how they overcame freezing temperatures, obscene language from the opposition, and lethargy to protest US involvement in the Middle Eastern conflicts. Descriptions like these, although they may add to journalistic style, make the protestors for peace seem like martyrs for a noble cause. But are they?

The protestors for peace have a relatively simple message. They support peace and oppose violence. My message is just as simple. I support peace and oppose violence. The deaths of thousands of people on September 11, 2001 were caused by unacceptable acts of violence. Peace cannot exist with terrorist regimes supporting terrorist cells. The education programs proposed by the protestors are, ironically, uneducated proposals.

Education programs are irrelevant in defeating terrorism and are no substitute for our military actions. You cannot reverse years of brainwashing instilled during the childhood minds' of terrorists who believe they have a duty from Allah or their terrorist ruler and are willing to give their lives to kill innocent people by putting them in a classroom. The behavior, beliefs, and tactics of terrorists will not be changed by education programs and can only be countered with military opposition to achieve a greater good.

The peace that the protestors strive for is a fake peace. In reality, all those who claim we should not be in the war, oppose necessary actions that will lead to a longer lasting and more stable peace in the Middle East that will not only protect the people of those nations, but also the people of this nation.

Their protests and criticism detract from the strength and support of America's efforts. They take away from our government the latitude necessary to conduct a war against governments who lead their countries by suppressing men and women and instilling fear in their citizens and other peaceful countries.

Already, the war has proven to be productive and progressive. Saddam Hussein, the former ruler of Iraq was a sworn enemy of America and harbored terrorists, a dangerous combination. He used his intelligence agencies to train the terrorists of al-Qaida and after September 11th he provided sanctuary and support for the terrorists responsible.

Saddam Hussein has now been captured, tried by his own people, and hanged for his horrendously violent crimes. In Afghanistan, a country led by the Taliban and a known headquarters of al-Qaida, the terrorist regime has been dismantled, the people liberated, and a major threat to the US eliminated. A democratic election has taken place and the country is an ally to the US in their efforts to locate other terrorists. Similar progressive accomplishments have occurred in other Middle Eastern nations like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

After September 11th, the nation promised they would never forget the tragedies that took place on that day. However, it seems the protestors have. To refuse to acknowledge the connection between the terrorizing murderers of the victims of 9/11 and the countries that aid and promote their mere existence is to dishonor the memories of all who have died because of their violence.

To not support the troops and the war is to dishonor those who risk their lives fighting for your freedom as well as the freedom of all those who were, and still are, oppressed under terrorist regimes. I admire and support the protestors' involvement and interests in national and world affairs, but their synthesis of Middle Eastern events is narrow and incomplete.

Sincerely,

Ashley Heath

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

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Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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page 4
issue 12 volume 37
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life

Friday, April 27, 2007

Autism on the rise

District adapts to increase in national autism rate

By Puja Parikh
News Editor

The number of students affected with autism is on the rise - nationwide, in the state of Indiana, and within the school district. Ten years ago, one in every 2,500 individuals was diagnosed with the disease. Now the rate is much higher, with one in only 166 individuals identified with the disease. An estimated 500,000 people in the United States are currently diagnosed with autism and similar pervasive developmental disabilities.

According to Kathy German, Southwest Allen County School district (SACS) preschool special needs speech therapist, autism is making a large impact in the district.

"I've seen a great increase in the number of autistic children who have entered by program," German said. "When I worked at Lutheran Hospital and the schools in 1987, I had one student under my care. That number has obviously become much larger."

Within the district, Patty Hartman, the autism consultant, has been hired as a full time consultant for the SACS district. The job was added in order to accommodate the growing number of autistic children. But the improvements to the district programs for students with autism come with a price.

"Of course a student who has autism is more expensive," Hartman said. "Due to their environmental needs, they obviously cost the district more. But, the resources the school has allocated towards the program have helped immensely."

The district installed a new program called Linkserve where Hartman can connect with autism experts sand consultants throughout Indiana.

"Because I am now full-time within the district, I can hold parent meetings, receive feedback, and work with staff members and teachers," Hartman said. "Before, it was a one man job for me. But now, I can attend conferences and learn about different programs."

The cause for the drastic increase in the number of autistic children is not yet known, but several theories do exist, all seeking to explain this phenomenon. Some believe that autism is diagnosed and identified more often in recent times - perhaps more often than it should be.

Others attribute the increase to a genetic predisposition, stating that some individuals, when placed in the right environment, can trigger the disease. The more accepted theories contain a combination of the two ideas, but an exact reason cannot be pinpointed.

"Part of the reason for this increase may be due to the fact that the DMV-IV, the tool used by medical and psychological experts to diagnose these problems, expanded the definition of autism within the last ten years," Hartman said. "I have worked with this district for nine years, and I have seen approximately a four-fold increase in the number of children with autism in our program."

According to Sven Bölte and Fritz Poustka, department chairs of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry department at J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, "Intensive early intervention programs and other efforts, as well as an exclusive behavior-based definition of the syndrome may be the cause of the drastic increase of autistic children that are clearly identified."

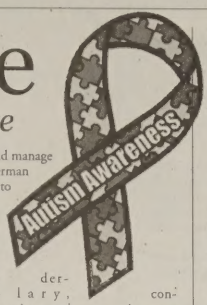
Dr. Gary Goldstein, President of the Kennedy Krieger Institute and a child neurologist, states that because autism has been linked genetically, the high heritability of the disease and increased awareness toward identifying the disease have contributed to these "staggering numbers."

Goldstein is a member of Autism Speaks, a new program that has received federal and private funds in order to educate communities about the increasingly prevalent disease.

Hartman also added that the increase in the number of autistic children within the district may be due to the fact that many families move into the SACS district, knowing that the district is home is a specific program meant to help autistic children excel.

"It's a double-edged sword, but I know that we are making improvements," Hartman said.

While Hartman's position requires for her to attend conferences and manage the program, German has opportunities to work directly with the students.



"As a speech therapist, I work on developing vocabulary, understanding vocabulary, conversing in social situations, and interacting socially, no matter what the severity of the disease," German said. "Our key is positive reinforcement. We want the students to feel their strengths, and positively reinforcing the students whenever they do something right is a way to foster that."

Andrew Schroeder (12), who is friends with students with autism, notices a difference in behavior, but little else.

"Autism only makes the person seem somewhat removed from his or her surroundings," Schroeder said. "They still have a brain as good as anyone else."

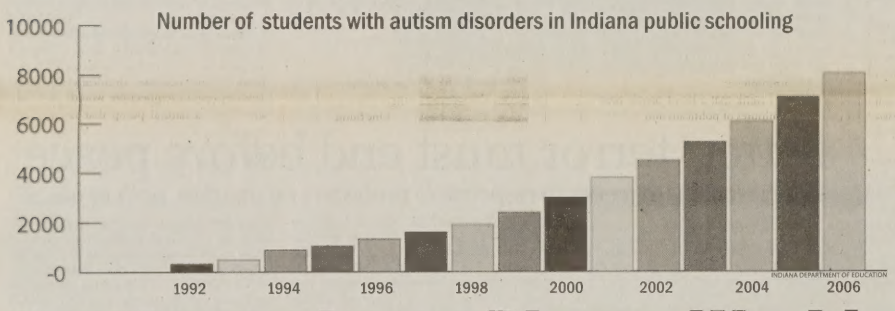
Autistic students may encounter problems with interpersonal skills, but Schroeder sees no connection between the disease and his friendship.

"Autism is a weak barrier against friendship and should never prevent friendship," Schroeder said.

Both Hartman and German agree that while little is known about autism, more research into the disorder is helping tremendously.

"My job is a work in progress," Hartman said. "No two years have been the same. There are so many variables that we cannot control within the school program. The family environment, size, dynamics of the family, and many other factors are things we cannot control. But I have seen amazing success stories within the district. I have had many, many students who I see in the newspaper for their accomplishments."

"I'm glad that there is more awareness about the topic," German said. "There are so many graduates of my program that I see doing so well. It's a great feeling."



Band parades at Disney World

Members enjoy time in the Florida sun during spring break

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

Over spring break, the Spartan Alliance band traveled to Orlando, Florida, in order to perform in a parade held at Disney World. After countless hours of practice, band members were able to showcase their talent outside of competition season and enjoy a warm vacation away from home.

"It's been the most exciting thing for everyone since they announced we were going down to Florida," Evan Snyder (10) said. "It was pretty hectic getting payments in on time and organizing everything for the trip, and we also had to practice marching in parade formation and practice music for the parade."

This year's band trip was not only to bask in the sun, but also hone their skills in a marching performance through a Disney theme park.

"I was on the end of the line so I would hear the people talking about us," Laura Kusisto (10) said. "Being behind the scenes was really cool and a lot of fun. It wasn't something a lot of people do."

The band will be marching to this year's piece, "Conquest."

"I think 'Conquest' is catchy and enjoyable to play and march to," Snyder said.

While the trip is not required of all band students, the majority that went paid around $1400 for the experience.

"We've done a lot of fundraising to help pay for the costs, like the car wash in the fall, a fundraiser, and we sold raffle tickets," Kusisto said.

Apart from parading around theme parks, band members enjoyed their spring break in more relaxing settings.

"My favorite day was when we went to the beach and barbecued and got to hang out with all of our friends then we got all dressed up for the dance under the pavilion," Quinn Brenneke (9) said.

While underclassmen members spent time enjoying the company of their seniors, they're also preparing for the departure of this year's seniors.

"I've made a lot of good friends [in band] and I've learned about leadership and working with a group… I didn't see any seniors crying, they really enjoyed the trip," Kusisto said.

Five band members have recently been chosen as new drum majors for 2007. Kusisto and Snyder are among the five and will be joined by Vasundhara Bhargava (11), Danielle Fry (11), and Allison Menze (10). "I've wanted to be a drum major more than anything for the past two years and it's just been hard work, dedication, and support from my family and friends that got me to this point," said Snyder.

Whether it was marching down the streets in Disney Land, or catching a few rays on the beach, the band members were able to enjoy their vacation as well as demonstrate their accumulated talents while having fun.

"The actual marching was really short but really fun because people lined the streets and you knew they were there for you," Brenneke said.

Top: A band member gets buried in the sand by friends during a day at the beach as students take a break from their packed schedule. Right: The Spartan Alliance band marches through Disney World.

Students park in senior, teacher lots

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

For students, being able to drive to school is a privilege granted on the basis that they park in their assigned lots and pay for their parking permits. Recently, however, upperclassmen have complained about underclassmen ignoring these regulations by invading the junior, senior, and even the faculty parking lots.

"Upon becoming a senior, it becomes a bit of an annoyance because you remember having to wait to be a senior to park there," Will Kioultzopoulos (12) said. "Now it feels like a privilege."

And for those who are caught, there is a simple fine and suspension.

"The first time I got a ticket, it was for parking in the senior lot, and the second time, I got caught parking in the faculty lot," Ryan Hoff (10) said. "Both times I got a $10 fine and suspended from parking for ten school days."

In their attempts to avoid getting tickets, underclassmen have developed several methods for parking in the restricted lots undetected.

"People try to beat the system by using other people's stickers," Amanda Kingsbery (12) said.

Although there are repercussions for underclassmen, as well for upperclassmen, who park outside of their designated lots, these punishments have yet to prevent underclassmen from parking in other lots or finding ways to get around the rules.

Upperclassmen have begun to question whether the current parking lot surveillance is as efficient as it should be to keep students from parking in the wrong lots.

"I think they should make a harsher penalty, and I don't know how often they check the parking lots, but I know it isn't every day,"

"[Underlcassmen] can wait three years like we did to park in the senior lot."

Amanda Kingsbery (12)
Student

Kingsbery said.

Allowing sophomore student's admission to the "far lot" was a disputed change in policy, and some upperclassmen disagree with the change.

"Underclassmen should only be allowed to have parking permits if they're in a sport or some other extracurricular activity," Kingsbery said.

Some believe that, just as the middle-schoolers wait their turn to sit in the back of the bus, underclassmen should wait their turn to park in the closer lots.

"Underclassmen should definitely wait and park in their own lots," Kingsbery said. "It's seniority."

While Kingsbery wants underclassmen to wait just like the rules say, Hoff believes that an entire policy change should be made in regards to parking.

"I think that parking should be on a first come, first serve basis," Hoff said. "Everyone is paying the same price, so why should I be forced to walk all the way from the sophomore lot when it's freezing cold and snowing outside when I get here earlier than most of the seniors? I mean, you definitely don't look for the furthest parking spot when you're shopping. It just doesn't make sense."

Hoff spent the entirety of his parking suspension riding the bus to school.

"I hate riding the bus," Hoff said. "The rules aren't fair, and it takes forever to get home. When I drive to school, I can usually beat the bus to my house."

Whether there is a policy change or not, a quick slap on the wrist doesn't appear to be an effective deterrent to stop students from parking in closer lots and upsetting the upperclassmen.

"I get to school pretty late every day, and when I get here I want to be able to find a parking space," Kingsbery said.

Key Club ushers in end of year with kindness

Members take on tasks from blanket making to a rose sale, electing next year's leaders

By Kara Hackett
Writer

With new leadership elected for next year, Key Club members have spent the spring planning and working. Regardless of who's in charge, Key Club maintains the goal of helping the community with current and upcoming events, including a blanket-making project and Relay for Life this summer.

Following the recent elections, current Key Club President Brad Zehr (12) will be handing over his responsibilities to the newly elected president, David Greco (11), at the end of this school year.

But elections haven't disrupted any plans members have made; from April 9 through the 13, students were given the chance to surprise someone with roses from the annual Key Club Rose Sale.

"This is my third year being involved in the Key Club Rose Sale and I believe the club sold roses even before then," Zehr said. "The club probably will be selling again next year because it's a tradition and a nice way to raise money for our club."

Not only does the rose sale allow for students to show someone how much they care, but it is also a great way to support the club's sponsoring organizations and expand the club's charitable works around the community.

"Some of the money we raise goes to the Kiwanis Club, our sponsor organization, which uses the money for large volunteer projects and also scholarships for leadership retreats, Key Club State Convention, and scholarships for high school seniors," Zehr said. "The rest of the rose sale money goes directly to our school club, which is then put into projects, weekly meeting supplies, and donations to charity organizations."

From school-wide to city-wide, Key Club aims to make efforts in all areas.

"Key Club is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help with roofing, painting, and landscaping homes," said Zehr. "We also volunteer at many elementary school carnivals and movie nights."

Last Friday Key Club held the Linus Blanket Project in the Community Room during 2nd, 3rd, and 4th periods to commemorate the Allen County Youth Day of Caring. Students involved in the Day of Caring made special blankets for children who are staying in the hospital.

The club is also preparing to participate in Relay for Life on June 1. Relay for Life involves an all-nighter for students on the Summit track in order to raise cancer awareness and research funds.

"Key Club is gearing up for Relay for Life, an 18-hour walkathon fundraiser benefiting the American Cancer Society," Zehr said. "The event is June 1 at Summit Middle School's track and our 39-member team hopes to raise $5,000."

"Key club is not just another extra curricular activity to help one on their college application, but rather an extra curricular activity to help one's lifestyle become that of a giving one," Meghan O'Connor (10) said.

By making a difference in the lives of the community, Key Club members, in turn, feel the effects of

"Not only does it make the quality of life better for the people of our community, but my own life in particular has improved," Sara Parker (10) said. "Key Club has changed the way I think, act, and feel about myself."

PHOTO KARA HAL

Deanna Charcalla (10) makes a blanket for the Day of Caring last Friday sponsored by Key Club.

Students vs. teachers about classroom rules

By Kara Hackett
Writer

Mid test, a cell phone rings. Eyes dart around the class to find the guilty suspect, names of the usual culprits are whispered, but when the phone rings again it's not coming from the students but from the teacher's desk.

When a student is found with a cell phone, discipline guidelines in the student handbook say that the student is to receive an in school suspension as a part of the administration's zero-tolerance policy. But teachers take calls at any time of the day, even during class, without any repercussions. Some students question whether the discrepancy in the rules is fair.

"I think it's ironic how some teachers complain about students using cell phones, and then [the teacher's phone] goes off," Christy Tatara (10) said. "If teachers want students to stop using them, then they should likewise."

French teacher Gregory Fryzel, however, points out that teachers are encouraged to obey the same student rules even though there are no written rules for teachers about eating and drinking in the classroom.

"Teachers are not to be using their cell phones during class time," Fryzel said. "We were told this at our last staff meeting. That's another pretty straightforward and simple rule. But just like the students that they discipline, there are some teachers who refuse to follow the rule as well. This certainly does not send a good message. There is apparently no

"I've recently noticed a new posture that's developing here: the head-bent-in-prayer-text-messaging pose. It's a dead give-away."

Gregory Fryzel
French Teacher

stated rule about food and open containers for teachers. Sometimes, I have mixed feelings about this dichotomy. I feel that forbidding students to do what I am free to do confuses the message somewhat, therefore, I refrain from eating, drinking, and using my cell phone during class time."

Teachers' building phones are programmed with rings to tell the teacher whether the call is coming from inside or outside of the school.

"Only a select few teachers have listened to the ring of the classroom phone to see if the call was from outside the school and ignored it to continue teaching class," Andrew Reiman (11) said. "More times than not, the educator will answer the phone."

Reiman also points out that the zero-tolerance policy is often unfair to students, ignoring accidents or other circumstances.

"With a swift zero-tolerance blow, if a student dares to even make his cell phone visible, no matter what the emergency, repercussions are swift and harsh," Reiman said.

While cell phones obviously create a distraction in class, students could potentially use a cell phone's text-messaging service to cheat during tests and quizzes.

Fryzel sees the rules plain and simple.

"I do not believe that the cell phone rules are extreme," Fryzel said. "In fact, the rules are quite simple. No cell phones during the school day. What makes the rules difficult is the fact that students refuse to follow them. I've recently noticed a new "posture" that's developing here: the head-bent-in-prayer-text-messaging pose. It's a dead giveaway. So is the rummaging-through-the-big-purse ruse. Not very clever."

"I don't see a need for any student to have a cell phone during classes," Tatara said. "I think cell phones are disruptive. It's okay to have a phone before and after school, just not during. I also think that teachers should follow that rule."

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: Global warming

Science says that humans are contributing to global warming, but others say it's just part of the earth's natural cycle.

Colin Bir

I think it is a problem, but it isn't as simple or cut and dry as most people think it is. Emmisions into our atmosphere have exsisted since before the industrial revolution. Yes, carbon based fuels are a significant factor in the cause of global warming, but they aren't the only major contributor to the ammount of CO_2 building up in our atmosphere.

I think that a lot of people hear 5 minutes of politicans and bureaucrats spitting at each other on CNN and then think they've got it all figured out. It's a massive problem, yelling at people who don't drive hybrids and waving signs of protest at people entering gas stations isn't helping anyone. Stopping the use of carbon fuels is only a temporary fix. Steps need to be made to repair damage already done.

Kristina Vragovic

I'm not even sure what to believe anymore -- some say that the climate changes are completely natural, others say it's due to pollution, and others say it doesn't exist at all and that people are overreacting.

One thing I do know, however, is that we need to start making our daily routines more environment-friendly or pretty soon we won't have a planet to live on anymore, global warming or not.

The fact is that there's only one Earth, and we have to live on it... so let's keep it clean, shall we?

Levi Bolinger

Global warming definately exists and it is happening right now. You may say, "But what about all this cold weather in April?" Not only does global warming effect the temperature of our climate, but it also causes a relocation of climates.

When global warming takes its full effect the icecaps will melt and run into the ocean, causing temperatures to decrease drastically. This decrease in temperature would shut down a natural pump that is responsible for the warm currents that make much of Europe's climate pleasant and would throw Europe into an ice age.

Australia and the U.S. are the only countries that haven't signed the Kyoto treaty, which limits the amount of greenhouse gases emmitted by automobiles into the atmosphere.

Think we're not covering enough controversy? Post your own threads on the Controversy group's wall and be heard.

the Spartana on Facebook.
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The secret lives of teachers show they're human, too

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

When I was in first grade, my class had an assistant teacher named Mrs. Baker, who also worked part-time, fittingly, in the bakery section of Marsh grocery store. Every time I'd go shopping with my mom, I was afraid of running into her. She was a sweet grandmother-type, and had that wrinkly old-person skin that feels like both leather and tissue paper at once. The only other thing I remember about her was that her lung collapsed on an airplane, but that's beside the point.

She always gave me a "free" cookie. I say "free" because although it was a gift, the cookie really had a price – she'd come out from behind the counter and wrap me in a hug. One time she kissed me on the cheek. This mortified me. Not only was she violating my concept of what a proper display of teacher affection should be, but she was doing so in a very public place. When my mother later pointed out that it was polite to hug back instead of standing like a zombie, I burst into tears.

I think ever since Mrs. Baker unintentionally scarred me, I've been bothered by the dichotomy of teachers as both formal instructors and regular people. I suppose everyone is in some way. It catches you off guard to see an educator outside the classroom -- suddenly you feel like you're being graded on your behavior. It's thrilling and a little scary to observe faculty in the "wild" – we view them surreptitiously, wondering what secrets they might reveal through their actions.

There's your history teacher, pushing a cart next to a strange woman…could that be his wife? And what are they buying? Ahh…so he eats YOGURT, does he? Fruit on the bottom? How bizarre! We report these findings to our friends, boasting as though we caught these authority figures in some kind of compromising position: "Guess who I saw at Rave on Saturday? Mrs. So-and-so! She bought a ticket for the same movie that half of America saw this weekend! Isn't that weird?" Friends nod and grin, and we look on that teacher in a new light.

My sister Lily *still* points at the Covington Tannery every time we go to Blockbuster and says, "Remember when I saw your fifth grade teacher coming out of there?" or "I wonder if we'll see your old teacher getting her tan again…"

This has been going on for over six years. You'd think she'd seen the woman dealing drugs or something.

Yet we can all relate to the comfort that comes from seeing school staff out and about, acting like "normal" people. You're not so high and mighty after all, are you, Mr. Assistant Principal? Even though you have the power to discipline me, you cannot resist the lure of the Dairy Queen. I know. I saw you there. I waved.

It's more uncomfortable, however, when your personal life somehow reveals itself in their territory. I'm kind of sensitive, and honestly, I've cried at school at least once a year (is that extremely lame?). In over half of those instances, I was in the presence of a teacher. We students secretly imagine we're seeing something personal when we run into Mr. History at the grocery store, but if you're crying in front of him, you realize just how vulnerable you are. And we're lucky.

In my experience, Homestead's staff has been nothing but kind and understanding, no matter what situation I might be facing. Whenever I've faced a personal issue at school, the faculty has always responded with compassion and genuine concern. So although we get an adolescent thrill when we glimpse them in public, it's always comforting to remember in tough times that teachers are people, too. Sometimes I think we get so bogged down in being annoyed with our workload that we forget that.

For the past few weeks, I have had the honor of working with Ms. T.J. McCombs in First Presbyterian Theater's production of Steel Magnolias. I address her in character on a nightly basis as "Mama." Some of my friends asked if it was awkward to work with the teacher I had once cursed for assigning the honors trig group project. I'll admit, in the back of my mind I thought it might be. Now, however, instead of my just my former math teacher, I think of Ms. McCombs as an inspiration as an actress.

Of course, we had always gotten along in the classroom, but playing a mother and daughter who face serious hurdles requires a deep trust and understanding. I was surprised by just how easy it was to connect with her. During a scene where I argue with her, I can feel the emotional power radiating from her eyes. When I watch her final monologue, I tear up. It's been a wonderful experience to see someone I always saw first period in front of the chalkboard, teaching us about sine waves, shining on stage.

I think one of the coolest parts about high school is that we really begin to realize that teachers are people. Sure, we see them every day, but now we ask ourselves -- how much do we really know about them? Of course we still have that formal relationship, but now we are mature enough from more complex relationships with these extraordinary, interesting individuals. I think that's really neat. Sometimes we even have the privilege of becoming friends.

Help travels abroad

Mission trips go to Mexico, West Virginia

By Phillip Aleman
Writer

While some were enjoying sunshine on the beaches of Cancun, visiting the House of Mouse with fellow musicians in Florida, or just loafing in good old "Fort Fun," others chose to contribute their spring breaks to the benefit of communities abroad.

Through the organization and planning of Pointe Church, Lori Christner (12); Jeff Price (11), Paula Anderson (12), Tyler Harmeyer (9), Kaidon and Kolton Hempton (9), along with Dillon Kimmel (12), and others, assisted the citizens of Reynosa, Mexico. From Friday, March 31 to Thursday, April 5, the students made up a group of 19 individuals (including adult chaperones) who actually spent their break in Alamo, Texas, a small town twenty minutes from the border.

"It was great to see all the people who had nothing but still were so happy," Tyler Harmeyer (9) said. "It was a great experience."

In conjunction with Upon this Rock International, the mission organization stationed in Alamo, students made the daily commute from the organization's building across the country's border into Reynosa. An impoverished community, these students brought aid for the people there by setting up a temporary Vacation Bible School for the children. Led by Christner, the kids were treated to snacks, crafts, and games.

"It was awesome to once again work with the kids and see how happy they were to see us everyday," Lori Christner (12) said. "Each morning, tons of kids would run to the bus when they saw us coming."

The charitable group also assisted in the construction of adding a new room to an already established church. Other tasks included dispersing Bibles and care packages.

And in another trip a bit closer to home, the youth group of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ventured to West Virginia where they spent the majority of their time in the Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity Community Center. Students Adam McCarty (12), Becky Price (11), Dan Cayot (11), Caleb Pozorski (11), Candice Bertl (11), Alexis Klefeker (11), Bryan Hamm (10), Joe Vok (9), Joey Poorman (9), and others, left early on the first Saturday morning of the highly anticipated break.

After the long car ride, the group made the community center their temporary base of operations. Two dorms, divided by gender, housed the volunteering individuals, and a connecting recreation area became the social hangout when they had time to themselves and a place of prayer when mass and devotions were held.

Their daily schedule typically consisted of a wake up call for 6:15 mass, which was followed by breakfast at 7:30. After filling up on food, the students were divided into groups and left for their sites anywhere from between 8 and 9 a.m., traveling as much as an hour away to assigned locations.

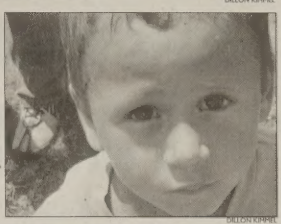
Some helped build houses by putting up walls, insulation, and siding, cutting out windows, and digging out areas to make room for future porches. The move is part of a plan to help people so that they may transition out of their older trailers into newer, nicer homes in the less fortunate area. Other students collected groceries and consumables for the nearby food pantry or went around cleaning up trash.

While St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has been holding these mission trips annually for 14 years, this was Candice Bertl's first outing with the church.

"It was very rewarding," Bertl said. "I learned a lot and made good friends [and the] mountains were absolutely beautiful."

DILLON KIMMEL

DILLON KIMMEL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DILLON KIMMEL

DILLON KIMMEL

Bottom left: Jeff Price (11) playing soccer against the locals. Top left: Price cleaning up a woman's yard. Above: Katie Ritter (10) plays jump rope with kids. Right bottom to top: locals pose for cameras and enjoy the company of students on the missions trip. Top right: Kolton Hempton (9) climbs with children in nearby trees.

Students pushed into toughest classes, colleges

By Karolina Heyduk and Annie Baenen
Life Editors

ALPHA students march from one class to the other together, traveling from Honors to AP through multiple periods of the day. To many, the challenging academic classes are only a step toward prestigious scholarships and colleges available to students after the four years of high school. But while some students truly want the challenge and the brand-name university, others are simply put into tough classes and slipped competitive college applications by teachers, parents, and even society.

"My mom pressured me more to attend a good school; I was looking at Alabama along with Notre Dame and Duke…and she made me apply to Yale, even though I'm not really interested in it," Katie Romelfanger (12) said.

Romelfanger attributes the influence to parents simply wanting the best for their kids – and what looks best around the water cooler.

"I think parents pressure their kids to get into prestigious schools because they want more for their kids than they had when they were our age, and they want their kids to succeed...some, of course, also like the bragging rights," Romelfanger said.

Students whose parents placed heavy emphasis on the college application process haven't quit yet; now the focus shifts to financing those top-notch colleges.

"I wouldn't be allowed out to spend time with my friends or to go a movie until my [college] applications were completed," Francesca Cardillo (12) said. "It was extremely stressful, as well as an obnoxious frustration. With my applications recently finished, I thought the regulation would end, but, unfortunately, it hasn't. The same type of control continues, but now the issue is homework, not applications."

But before students even begin thinking about colleges, many are faced with scheduling, and a battle between parent and student desires ensues.

> *"[My mom] made me apply to Yale, even though I'm not really interested in it."*
>
> **Katie Romelfanger** (12)
> Student

"During scheduling for my senior year classes my parents "encouraged" me to take as many AP/Honors classes that I could possibly take," Rick Dent (12) said. "I feel that the challenge is sometimes overwhelming, but it will help me improve as a student."

Students who can choose whatever classes they want still face a parent's watchful eye over report cards.

"I am not being pressured to take hard classes by my parents but I am being pressured to make good grades in the classes I am taking," Lindsey Baker (12) said.

"My parents really do not push me; I kind of push myself. They work in a support role and encourage me, but really don't pressure me," Andrew Schroeder (12) said.

But if farsighted parents are planning ahead, they also realize the importance of extracurriculars.

"My parents told my brother sister and me that we had to be in school activities," Lauren Cleaver (12) said. "I think that being in activities makes a person more well-rounded and makes them have better goals in life."

But the question being asked is whether all this work for a prestigious school is really all it's cracked-up to be. The field is undoubtedly more competitive, according to a *Time* article, "Who Needs Harvard?" published last summer, with 62% more students applying for college now than in the 1960's.

Even with the increasing competition to apply to college, a study published in the Quarterly Journal of Economics in 2002 reported that students who chose less-selective schools over high-profile colleges were earning just as much 20 years later as students who attended those highly esteemed universities.

The *Time* piece from last summer also pointed out that guidance counselors across the nation are beginning to realize the benefits of fit, not flare.

"Some see going to a brand-name college as providing that security" Gay Pepper, head of college guidance at Greens Farms Academy in Westport, Connecticut, said. "We have to shift that thinking. A college that is right for the student is the best form of investment."

Seniors search out scholarships to help with heavy college costs

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

Announced weekly as a reminder to seniors, the scholarship listing in the guidance office is often overlooked by students. But in just two pieces of paper are thousands of dollars of scholarship opportunities for students entering college in the fall with high tuition costs.

"I got the list of scholarships from the guidance office and applied to the ones that suited me," Kevin Nowak (12) said, a senior who started applying at the beginning of the year. "Now that I have decided to attend IU next year, I have been receiving some scholarships from them to apply for."

Students are often deceived by scholarships, assuming that most are only for those who achieve academically. But scholarships range in everything from academics to sports, from financial need to student beliefs and values.

"I have just recently begun applying for scholarships," said Amanda Clay (12). "I have received some scholarships for academics, so it has been helpful, but I am continuing to apply for more."

Applying for scholarships starts with a visit to the guidance office, where a listing and links to helpful websites is available. Seniors should search for scholarships offered through their colleges that aren't always announced through the mail.

Many students waited on scholarships to decide on their college path.

"The amount of the scholarships played a huge role in where I attend college," Andrew Schroeder (12) said. "I probably would not have chosen Indiana State if I would not have gotten that scholarship. I got offered some scholarships for running. They were from private schools but with the amount they offered, it was still quite expensive,"

For others, scholarships are secondary and have not affected students' choices for the future.

"The scholarships I received did not really affect my choice in colleges," Clay said.

"I had a few colleges that were tough to chose between, so the amount I could get in scholarships was my deciding factor," Nowak said. "I don't want to have to a ton of student loans to pay back."

Juniors shouldn't ignore the college scholarship announcements, either.

"I will definitely be interested in scholarships when I am looking at colleges next year," Kelley Strothman (11) said.

Scholarships available to Homestead students

Name	Due date	Scholarship information	For more info go to:
T.I.S. College Bookstore Scholarship	May 1, 2007	A $500 award for a committed incoming college freshman. It is not awarded on academic merit or financial need, but rather for the students demonstration of social responsibility.	www.tisbook.com
Homestead Student Government Scholarship	May 11, 2007	Scholarship for Homestead seniors (need not have been in student government) from $500 to $1000 to put toward tuition or other expenses.	student services
Apple Scholars Program	May 15, 2007	A scholarship for students who use technology to solve problems creatively and learn more intuitively. The scholarship provides the winner with a MacBook, an iPod, and $2,000.	www.apple.com/education/students/scholars/

For a complete list of scholarship opportunities for all Homestead students go to student services.

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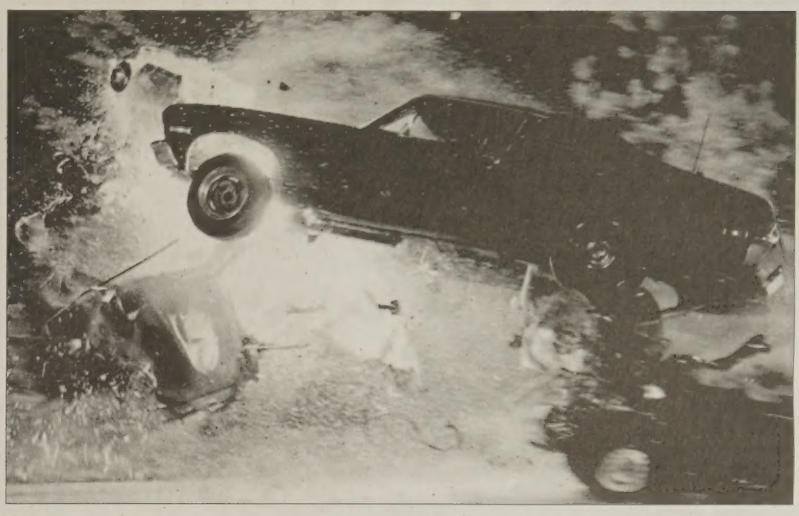
filmreviews by Chris Purdy

Grindhouse



A scene from the car chase in Tarantino's *Death Proof*, one of two features in the newly released *Grindhouse*. Photos used under Fair Use guidelines.

Throughout the 1970s, second run theaters in big cities were chock full of sleazy, low budget, exploitative films with little or no artistic merit whatsoever. The sole purpose of these movies was to shock and entertain in the least expensive or thought-provoking way possible. They were lower than B-movies; they were trash, and theaters that would double bill these movies for the price of one, as they often did, were called 'grindhouses.'

At the time, many of these were meant to be taken completely seriously, but throughout the years, they have gained an odd, humorous sort of fascination and appreciation from movie gurus. Now, '70s exploitation genre films are frequently watched as tongue-in-cheek, so-bad-it's-funny comedies, with the sort of fun results that can only be achieved when a movie was not trying to be amusing in the first place.

Renegade indie directors Robert Rodriguez (From *Dusk Till Dawn*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, *Sin City*) and Quentin Tarantino (*Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Kill Bill*) grew up watching these kinds of cheap, grungy movies in their local theaters and were essentially inspired by them. Even in Tarantino's timeless masterpiece, *Pulp Fiction*, the influence from good ol' exploitation garbage is undeniable.

So, with *Grindhouse*, they decided to team up and bring back this double feature tradition, bad movies and all. Each created a B-movie of his own, and after a deliciously grungy fake trailer for *Machete*, in which Danny Trejo plays a framed, disgruntled Mexican hitman, we get the first of these features: Robert Rodriguez's *Planet Terror*.

This is essentially another zombie/infection flick, but done in the style of '70s grunge. The plot is purposely hokey, involving a terrorist plot to steal biochemical weapons that goes wrong when the stuff is released into the air. The virus spreads rapidly, turning everyone into flesh-eating zombies that go *splat* when they die, and Rodriguez makes sure to include every single type of gory violence imaginable. That doesn't just include gunshots, explosions, and getting hit by trucks--he really uses his imagination here.

The characters include an exotic dancer named Cherry Darling, who gets her leg eaten by zombies and then replaces it with a machine gun, a gunslinging vigilante named El Wray, and a wide variety of other amusing archetypes frequently seen in crappy horror movies.

Planet Terror is dumb, as was the intent, but it's also wicked fun. With scratched, dully colored film and missing reels, Rodriguez perfectly recreates that which he is paying homage to, and relishes the opportunity. He knows he's making a bad movie, but he does it so well, it's actually really terrific entertainment.

Next, we get somewhat of a palate cleanser with three more faux trailers poking fun at exploitation movies: *Werewolf Women of the S.S.*, *Thanksgiving* (a hilarious spoof of Halloween), and my personal favorite, *Don't*, whose trailer is extremely reminiscent of the era, with its ridiculously simple name, its stupidly vague, ominous narration, and short clips of moments from the film that confuse you more than tell you about the plot. I loved each second of this retro intermission just as much as *Planet Terror*.

Then, just when you think you can't get any more satisfaction for your money, you get a second feature: Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof*. Being a fan of his, I want to get some things straight. Quentin merely attached his name and 'presented' films like *The Protector* and *Hostel*. He actually had nothing to do with making those, but it's still hurting his image because people don't know the difference. He is a much better filmmaker than that.

As for the film itself, it isn't getting as much praise, mostly due to its lengthy passages of superficial dialogue. The pace is much different than the frenetic film which comes before it, but if you're willing to get situated and accept the change, you're in for a great ride.

Personally, I was surprised by *Death Proof*. Whereas Rodriguez simply creates a wildly fun spoof of bad '70s movies that rarely has anything of lasting value, Quentin, being the superb screenwriter that he is, pays tribute to the genre by actually making a more serious, and in the end, good, 'grindhouse' film. He doesn't merely expect the audience to instantly be in on the joke, he builds his story and his characters from the ground up, which ultimately results in a more suspenseful and surprising work.

Kurt Russell plays Stuntman Mike, an aging but immature stunt driver who also happens to be a serial killer. The thing is, his *modus operandi* is to kill using his "100% death proof" stunt car.

We meet his first victims, a group of young women charting on their way to a local bar about the kinds of trivial things people just chat about. The talking, though cleverly written, could certainly have used some trimming, but where that falls short, the excitement more than compensates. Kurt Russell's performance is chilling, and his first big kill is incredibly effective, in spite of how desensitized the audience should be at this point. Tarantino is just that good at storytelling.

Following this disturbing chain of events, we meet a second group of young ladies...only this time, the twist is that three of them are also stunt people. When they get a chance to test drive a 1970 Dodge Challenger, Stuntman Mike chases after them with murderous intent, and an absolutely terrific car chase ensues, probably one of the most exciting I've ever seen. Despite what people may say, *Death Proof* is the better film, and the one that will last. In spite of how entertaining it may be, *Planet Terror*'s novelty will eventually wear off just as *Snakes on a Plane* did.

The only thing that might turn people away, besides not getting the whole joke of *Grindhouse*, is the excessive gore. That's just something many people don't care to see, and they should be aware of that before even thinking about watching this. Without question, this movie is only for the people who are old enough to see it, but I feel obligated to review it simply because of how bad it flopped at the box office. Such a novel concept, such a great time at the movies, really doesn't deserve this fate.

Planet Terror: Rose McGowan, Michaël Biehn, Freddy Rodriguez, dir. Robert Rodriguez. Death Proof: Kurt Russell, Rose McGowan, Rosario Dawson, dir. Quentin Tarantino

Purdy's Rating: ★★★½

albumreview by Brad Lufkin

The Shins are incredible, rarely hitting a sour note in their music career, and always delivering top notch tunes. Coming off of the great success of their previous album, *Chutes Too Narrow*, The Shins have just released a new album. After over three years of planning and recording, allowing the band more time for development of their ideas, *Wincing the Night Away* acknowledges The Shins' transition into new and unexplored territory.

Chutes Too Narrow was an original and pleasing album but *Wincing the Night Away* raises the bar even higher for their future releases. With lyrical genius James Mercer heading up the band, it continues to excel.

Leaked onto the internet in October, 2006, the band's newest album had sort of a rough release. iTunes accidentally put the album on sale on Jan. 9, 2007, two weeks before its official release, and it was also scheduled to be officially released in the summer of 2006, but the band decided to take more time to build up the album more.

None of this is likely to have hindered the sales of *Wincing the Night Away* as it debuted at number two on the Billboard 200 chart.

The album art itself is pretty sweet, looking like something Dr. Seuss would have drawn while bored in math class, graph paper and all. But the pretty pictures are just the beginning; a great album lies underneath.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Wincing the Night Away

"Sleeping Lessons" is a great introduction to a Shins' record, beginning with keyboards, elevating with guitars and ending electrified. The song starts off slow and steadily grows until it explodes. It is later followed by the single of the album, "Phantom Limb," which has a mid-tempo beat that works well with the lyrics.

Many of the high points on the CD are products of The Shins going in a different direction than what they were used to. "Sea Legs" is a departure for the band, and can almost be called hip-hop (even though that's a stretch). Fans can calm down if the idea is a little scary. They really pulled it off by changing it up a bit.

The closing track, "A Comet Appears," is brilliantly orchestrated, fitting the lyrics seamlessly. Being maybe one of the best Shins tracks yet, it is an ideal closing.

"Wincing the Night Away" proves that the time taken in between records was well spent. The evolution of the band could undoubtedly take their music in different routes with great success.

sudoku musicreview by Greg Kyes

			5		2			
9						4		
	7				3		5	1
		9					1	
	6	1	7		4	9	3	
	8					7		
1	9		3				4	
		3						9
			8		7			

How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

Some bands are happy, some bands are sad, some bands are mellow, and then there are some bands that are just plain angry. Included in the latter group are a couple sub-groups. There are, of course, the bands that are upset over their ex-girlfriend and a Jerry Springer lawsuit gone wrong. Then there is what is referred to as "Goth Metal" which nobody really understands. Best we can figure, "Goth Metal" most likely translates to "scream until blood floods the earth." Pleasant isn't it? But once in a while you will find an exception, a band that is angry with a purpose. In late 1991, such a band hit the scene.

Rage Against the Machine, consisting of guitarist Tom Morello, vocalist Zach de la Rocha, bassist Tim Commerford, and drummer Brad Wilk, brought to the stage a completely unique sound fused with a blatant political message. As can be found in their lyrics, Rage Against the Machine voices a revolutionary left-wing viewpoint and a highly critical attitude toward many of the United States' policies. Let's just say these boys probably won't be found on President Bush's ipod.

Zach de la Rocha's rap-influenced lyrics are supported by Wilk and Commerford's heavy drum and bass combination. But from a musical perspective, there is no question that Tom Morello's one-of-a-kind guitar style takes the talent trophy for the group.

Morello is famous for creating peculiar sounds using only his guitar and his unique and obscure guitar techniques. Some of the sounds are so unbelievable and unrecognizable from anything ever heard on a guitar that the band states in all their albums that "no samples, keyboards or synthesizers used in the making of this recording."

> *"Let's just say these boys probably won't be found on President Bush's ipod."*
>
> **Greg Kyes Myland**
> Writer

With all of the above said, it's easy to imagine how Rage Against the Machine has created a vividly loyal fan base. In turn, it is also easy to understand how upset the fans became when the band split in 2000.

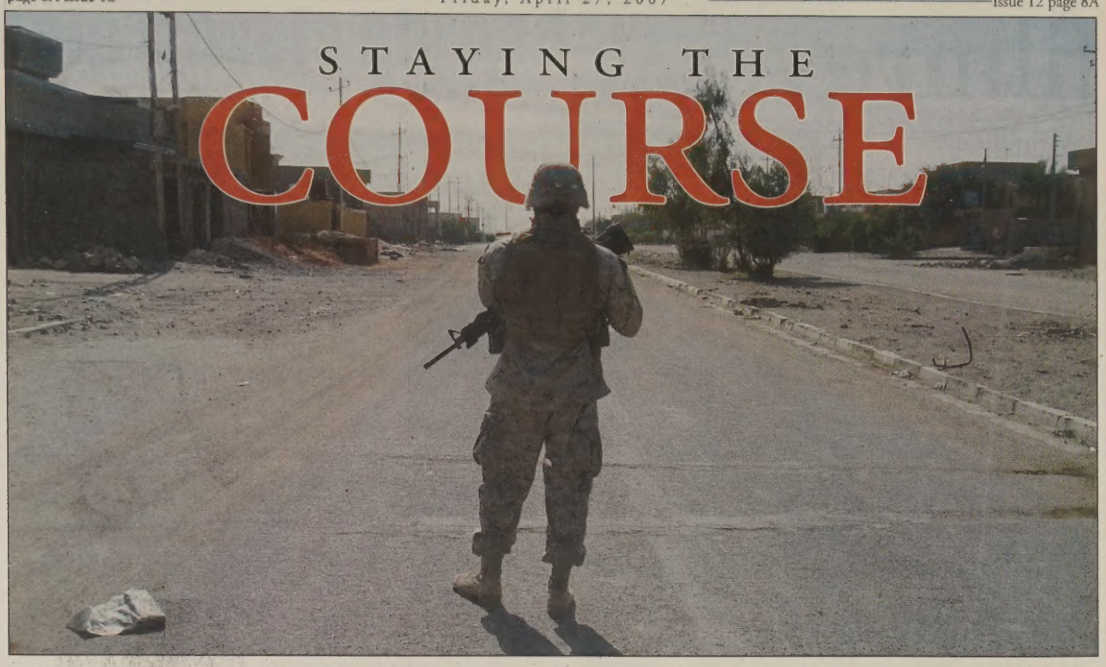
Zach de la Rocha went on to a low-profile solo career, whereas Morello, Commerford, and Wilk chose to join former Soundgarden vocalist Chris Cornell to create Audioslave. Until their recent breakup, Audioslave released three very successful albums that offered a somewhat similar core sound as Rage but with a slightly more mainstream feel. Overall, Audioslave was good. But let's be honest; in comparison to Rage, Audioslave is flat out weak.

After the announced split of Audioslave, fans of both the bands (including myself) wondered, "what now?"

The news could not have been better. Rage has announced that they will reunite for the Coachella music festival in California on April 27. The band has also announced that they will play the Rock the Bells tour this summer. Insiders say it is likely more dates will come, and wouldn't be surprised to see a full-out tour announced in a year or so, just in time for election season.

It's official: Rage Against the Machine is angry with a purpose and, for now at least, they are back.

STAYING THE COURSE



Students, faculty members with ties to the war maintain their support of the President and the War on Terror

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

They don pins reading, "Operation Iraqi Freedom," "I Support our Troops," or even just a simple American flag or yellow ribbon. Their friends, brothers, sons, and neighbors fight overseas for the rights of people who share almost nothing in common with them. They preside over political clubs, organize fund raisers, and pray every night for the safety of their loved ones. And as the nation grows nearer to the fourth anniversary of President Bush's announcement declaring victory in Iraq on May 2, 2003, staff and students with direct or indirect ties to the conflict overseas maintain their support for the War on Terror and the Commander-in-Chief.

BRINGING THE War HOME
Part II of III

Rachel Schenk (12) recently had a very close friend return from a nine-month service duty in Iraq. From what she understands, he was welcomed by the Iraqi people and had a chance to enjoy communication with some thankful citizens.

"[He] even interacted with some of the small children thanking him for his service and protection," Schenk said.

Meg Warner (12) shares with Schenk a personal connection to the War in Iraq. Warner's brother Dan recently returned from a six-month duty and is choosing to return to the war-torn country in January of 2008, a decision Warner sees as brave and patriotic.

"On behalf of my brother, I want to say that what our troops are doing over there is for the good of the Iraqi people," Warner said.

Caitlin McPherson (12), Co-President of the Allen County Teenage Republicans, has also spoken to several soldiers who have served in Iraq.

"I believe that the media will always spin stories to sell papers. The American people are drawn to sad stories and never get to see any of the good we are doing. I know numerous soldiers...and they assure me that our cause is a worthy one," McPherson said.

Schenk said she supports the President and the troops "100%" and finds the actions of protestors both locally and nationally "totally disrespectful."

"[Protestors] hold signs saying 'War Is Not the Answer'... without war they wouldn't have the right to say that in the first place. Without war, they wouldn't have that freedom of speech we so often take for granted," Schenk said.

"I believe that America, as the strongest nation in the world, has an obligation and a moral duty to help those who cannot defend themselves," McPherson said.

Warner believes Americans need to give the troops and the strategy a fair chance to succeed.

"The Iraqi government is not yet ready to govern themselves. They need our help to get their government running and keep it steady. Building a strong, stable government takes time. If we pull out now, we run the risk of more terrorism, more death, and ultimately failure," Warner said.

Computer Specialist Laura Johnson's son Nicholas served in Iraq for seven months on a team that worked to rebuild the city of Fallujah. As a mother, she said those seven months were "hell."

"You wake up every morning and you turn on the television and hear the reports of so many U.S. soldiers dying in Iraq... my stomach would just drop," Johnson said.

In order to help her son's unit and the underprivileged in the area, last year Johnson and SADD organized Operation Ooh-Rah, which sent care packages to the children in the region and CD's directly to Nicholas' unit. Johnson said it made her feel like she was making a difference for both her son and others.

Psychology and Government teacher Tim Decker has served in the United States Coast Guard for the past twelve years. His service time has taken him to several different countries, including South Korea, Sicily, and Camp Spearhead, a large port in Kuwait where most of the equipment for the war in Iraq arrives. Decker spent five months from April 2003 to September 2003 in Kuwait.

"My job was to board incoming military sea command vessels and other contracted vessels that bring in the equipment...I would get on and say, 'Here's our land security land-side security is set up and here's how our sea-side security is set up, and if anything happens here's how we're going to react to it.' Fortunately, nothing ever happened, but it's one of those situations where you never knew for sure. That's the thing about terrorism. You never know when it's going to strike. You always want to be as prepared as you can possibly be," Decker said.

Decker said he received mainly positive reactions from the Kuwaitis, mostly because of their maintained appreciation for U.S. involvement in their liberation from Saddam Hussein in the first Gulf War and that the Kuwaitis routinely invited the stationed servicemen for afternoon tea and barbecues.

> "...you don't just want to pull out and leave a government that is already on shaky grounds with no stability, no structure, and no support... We have a responsibility to the Iraqi people to kind of see this through" - Tim Decker

As far as his beliefs on our war in Iraq, Decker is not convinced that the war can be won with "the use of military force" because the conflict between groups in that region go back centuries, and he does not believe a military presence can cancel our hundreds of years of history. At the same time, however, he does not see a troop pullout as prudent at this time.

"I understand people's sentiments and their families towards the war and getting our troops home, and I want to see that as well. But at the same time, you don't just want to pull out and leave a government that is already on shaky grounds with no stability, no structure, and no support because you could easily have a total collapse of the government and go into total anarchy... We have a responsibility to the Iraqi people to kind of see this through," Decker said.

Decker does support the overall War on Terror, saying he believes keeping the terrorists guessing is one step to success.

"I'm of the mindset that you want to keep the terrorists on the run. You don't want to give them any place where they feel safe...I also think that if you give them a safe refuge, they will continue to plot attacks against America. Since September 11, 2001, we haven't been attacked on our soil. I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that these terrorists are on the run," Decker said.

Several things need to happen in the next several years in order to claim any sort of victory in the War on Terror, Decker says, starting with the stabilization of the Iraqi government.

"Ideally, I'd like to see Iraq stabilized. I'd like to see Iran dismantle their nuclear program. I'd like to see that region stabilized as much as possible. But once again, I think that may be wishful thinking. That entire area has a history of violence dating back hundreds, maybe even thousands of years. And I just don't know if a decade will be enough time to turn around what's been going on for much longer," Decker said.

Photos Courtesy of Laura Johnson and Meg Warner.
Top: Nick Johnson stands guard in the middle of an Iraqi road. Top left: Meg Warner says goodbye to her brother Dan as he prepares to leave for Iraq. Third from bottom: Nick and a fellow soldier pose for a picture while overseas. Second from bottom: Dan Warner and his fiancee at the departure point. Bottom: Nick Johnson greets local Iraqi children from his humvee. Left: Nick Johnson receives a commendation from officers in the field.

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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Sports

Friday, April 27, 2007

Seniors Josh Cousino, Pat Mullen, Kyle McWilliams, Kyle Sherer, Josh Butcher, Kyle Leiendecker, Jordan Wise, Kevin Bultemeier, Bob Rodenbeck, and Ryan Cicero.

VETERAN CORE

Baseball team hopes presence of ten returning seniors fuels trip to State

By Chris Ray
Writer

The month of April means that the sport known as America's Pastime is starting a new season. The weather is getting warmer and the sound of the white ball hitting that leather glove is heard throughout the area.

The varsity boys baseball team is looking for revenge after last season's early post-season exit in the Sectional championship to Snider. With ten returning seniors, and nineteen total players, more than usual for a baseball team, the Spartans are loaded with experience and talent.

"I chose to take nineteen guys because we have a large number of seniors this year. Next year, the coaches wanted to make sure there wasn't a lack of returning players, so we took nine juniors to give them some varsity experience," Keith Potter, the boys head coach said.

With all the new and returning players, this team is looking to make a name for itself this season. Ranked fifth in the Indiana preseason polls, the Spartans have very high expectations.

"Our expectations are very high. We know that we can win a lot of ball games this year," Potter said.

Returning players from last year's team include phenom pitcher Kyle Leiendecker (12), who will attend Indiana University on a baseball scholarship, shortstop Ryan Wright (11), catcher Josh Butcher (12), second baseman Ryan Cicero (12), first baseman Kyle Sherer (12), and outfielder Kevin Bultemeier (12).

The Spartans first game came against the Bishop Dwenger Saints on April 10. With Leiendecker pitching and major league scouts watching his every move, the team fell behind early, 2-0, in the first inning. However, the Spartans scored a run in the next two innings to tie the game up. After Travis Carsten (12) pitched a few scoreless innings, Bob Glover (11) came into pitch. He gave up three runs in the final inning of the game, denying the Spartans their first win of the season in their first game.

"The loss to Dwenger was disappointing. The team just didn't play as well as they could have. I don't believe the high preseason ranking put any pressure on us to win, but it allowed teams to be on the lookout for us," Potter said.

Another dilemma the Spartans have faced this year is the weather. With the unusual mid-April, many of the games have been canceled.

"We were definitely affected by the weather. In our loss to Dwenger, it just looked like we were not ready to play, and that could have been related to all the cancellations from the weather," Potter said.

The next game for the Spartans came on April 13, against Blackford High School. After a nine-run first inning, the Spartans never looked back. The team won the game 11-2 behind the pitching Bultemeier.

On Saturday, April 14, the Spartans faced Plymouth in what turned out to be blizzard-like conditions. With the snow falling, the Spartans held off Plymouth by a score of 3-0.

On Tuesday, April 17, the Spartans defeated the Blackhawk Braves by a final score of 13-11. Bob Glover was the winning pitcher. Ryan Wright had a triple and a home run, and Kyle Leiendecker had a home run as well. The Spartans' next game came against Huntington North on Thursday, April 19, where they came out victorious behind the stellar pitching of Kevin Bultemeier. The team won 6-1.

Then, the team went on to defeat the Manchester Squires with 10-0 shutout, with help from a Manchester squad that committed six errors. Logan Bultemeier went 2 for 4 in the game. With momentum going into the weekend, the Spartans played a double-header against the Northrop Bruins.

The team lost the first game by the score of 3-2 on a game-winning home run by Northrop. In the nightcap of the double header, Jordan Wise (12) led the Spartans to the victory with his bat, piling up 6 RBIs and 3 hits, including a home run.

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

GAMES PLAYED

April 10 Bishop Dwenger L 5-2
April 13 Blackford W 11-2
April 14 Plymouth W 3-0
April 17 Blackhawk W 13-11
April 19 Huntington North W 6-1
April 20 Manchester W 10-0
April 22 Northrop L 3-2
April 22 Northrop W 13-5

UPCOMING GAMES

April 26 Columbia City
April 28 Elmhurst
April 28 Elmhurst
May 1 Bellmont
May 3 DeKalb
May 5 Snider
May 5 Snider

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Left: Kyle Leiendecker (12) pitches against Bishop Dwenger. The Spartans lost their opener 5-3 to the Saints. Below: Ryan Wright (11) tags out a runner in the Huntington North game.

SPORTS BRIEFS

GRADUATE STARTING FOR PADRES

Rob Bowen, a 1999 graduate, recently was moved into the starting catcher position for the San Diego Padres after the club's normal starter Josh Barfield was placed on the 15-day Disabled List. In 14 games with the Padres, Bowen is hitting .256 with five RBIs and one home run. Bowen was the Gatorade Indiana High School Player of the Year in 1999.

GIRLS LACROSSE HAS WON TWO

The recently-formed girls lacrosse team has compiled a 2-2-1 record over their first five contests. The team is the only girls lacrosse team in Fort Wayne, and contain 22 total players, which also include three Canterbury students and a Carroll student. Most of their competition comes from the Indianapolis area. Kent Brown is the coach and founder of the team.

WATER WORKS

Inclement weather forces cancellation of events, some not made up

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Students returning from warm weather Spring Breaks were greeted by frigid temperatures and strong winds in Fort Wayne, yet another reminder of the volatile weather that often plagues the Midwest during the early Spring months. Similarly, athletes in spring sports were negatively affected by the January-like temperatures, as Athletic Director John Ankenbruck was forced to cancel numerous events.

"I don't know if we've ever had a run of consecutive bad days as much as we had that week...I've been here 19 years, and it was probably one of the worst stretches we've had," Ankenbruck said.

Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12, proved to be complete washouts, while the rest of the week only certain events had to be cancelled. Saturday's planned events were also postponed, but some sporting events were able to continue as scheduled on Tuesday. Ankenbruck said the situation could have been worse if Spring Break was not scheduled when it was.

"We were fortunate that we were on Spring Break the week before, where we didn't have a whole lot of stuff that was already scheduled, or we would have lost all those games too because that week was a terrible week too, especially on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday," Ankenbruck said.

Many sports whose events were canceled will not make up their cancellations due to schedule conflicts.

"A lot of stuff like track meets, we will not be able to reschedule those just because it will not fit into their schedule," Ankenbruck said.

Andrew Schroeder (12) is a senior varsity long distance track runner. Schroeder said the canceled meets mean less opportunities for athletes to improve.

"It's disheartening because, for the seniors especially, it is our last year, and every meet that is canceled is another missed opportunity to improve our times," Schroeder said.

Ankenbruck said most of the baseball and softball games will most likely to be rescheduled, but those teams may be forced to play more games than normal in a week.

> *"I don't know if we've ever had a run of consecutive bad days as much as we had that week...I've been here 19 years, and it was probably one of the worst stretches we've had."*
>
> **John Ankenbruck**
> Athletic Director

"Especially for baseball, it's tough for the pitching to play sometimes five, possibly even six games in a week. For softball...the pitching isn't quite as critical there," Ankenbruck said.

Ankenbruck said the idea would be to get the make-ups in as soon as possible, but the reality is most of the time they must be spaced out throughout the season depending on what dates are available for both schools involved.

Some students have said that the rescheduling puts the athletes at adisadvantage, but Ankenbruck said that there aren't many options when at the mercy of the weather.

"It's something that you just have to get used to and learn to live with it...In Indiana, we know that in April and sometimes even May the weather isn't all that great, so we just do the best we can to play as many of the games as we can and try to get them in," Ankenbruck said.

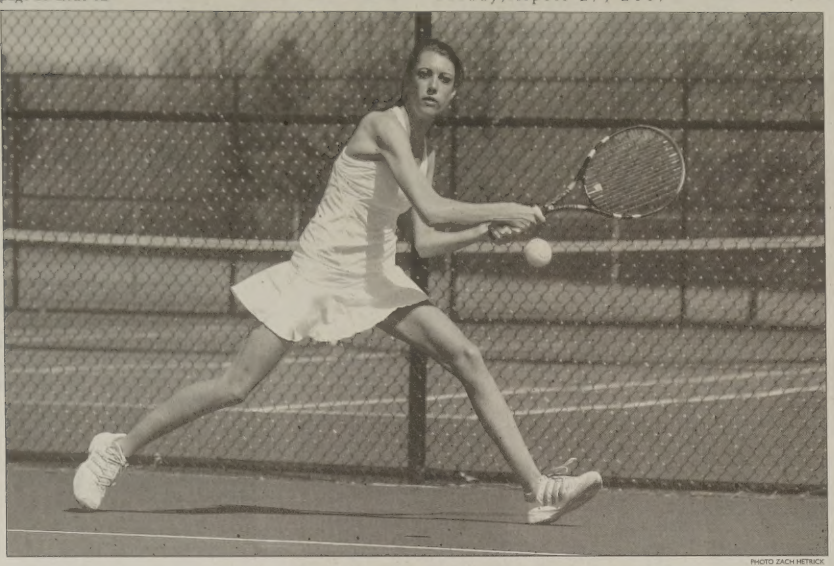

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Amy Recht (12) goes for a shot in a recent match. Recht continues to dominate local competition and hopes to place well in the State Finals this June.

Duo of Recht, Johnson lead revamped girls tennis team

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

After losing several strong seniors from last season, the tennis team is relatively young this year. The varsity team is led by two current seniors and is largely composed of underclassmen because every freshman that tries out automatically makes the team. The team is coached by Jim Shull, who has a lengthy record of State appearances and overall success in both girls and boys tennis. One senior in particular, Amy Recht (12), plans on leading the girls to a successful season. Recht said she hopes for both individual success and team success.

Recht has been playing tennis for most of her life. The results show, as Recht has been one of the top Lady Spartan tennis players since she was a freshman.

This is her fourth year competing on the Spartan team, and she is coming in armed with varsity experience and specific goals for this season.

"My personal goals for this year are to, as a team, do as best as we can. We all of course want to make it to State," Recht said. "There are a couple of really good teams that would give us a run for our money, but I think if we all work hard we could make it to State. Also, I would like to go to State individually, and see how I can do there".

Due to Recht's success at the high school level, she has caught the attention of the IPFW athletic program. Recht has decided to stay in Fort Wayne on a full scholarship to play tennis and is excited to compete on the collegiate level.

"Going there will be a lot of fun because a couple of my really good friends already play for them," Recht said.

Another varsity contender this year will be Jade Johnson (10), who is also another experienced participant on the team. Johnson is partaking in her second year of varsity tennis, after putting together a quality varsity debut. Johnson began playing tennis at age five. Her father, Assistant Principal Chris Johnson, frequently takes her to practice her skills. As the years have progressed, Johnson has learned to love the game and accept her role as a vital part of her high school team. She plays tennis all-year round at Wildwood Racquet Club and competes in tournaments on the weekends. Currently, Johnson has a National, Midwest, and northern Indiana ranking. With the tennis season in full swing, Johnson has a few things she's looking forward to.

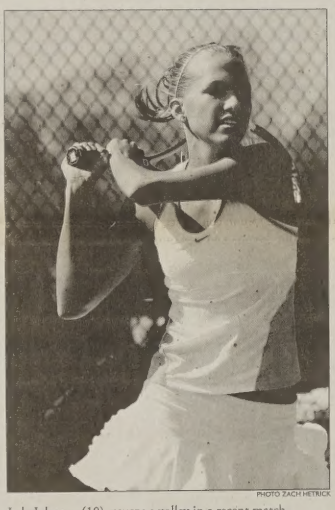

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Jade Johnson (10) returns a volley in a recent match.

"The thing I am looking most forward to are the invitationals and the post-season, where we have a lot tougher competition," Johnson said. "That's what is the most fun for me."

Although she is still a young competitor, Johnson has many goals for her career: she aspires to win a State Title and play in college.

"Tennis is the only sport I have ever played in my whole life, and I love it," Johnson said.

The season has started off slowly due to the weather, as many of the matches have been cancelled. The team, however, has enjoyed better weather in recent weeks and has been able to begin getting back into a normal schedule. The team faced Snider first and easily beat the Lady Panthers 5-0, meaning the varsity team was victorious in number one singles and doubles, number two singles and doubles, and number three singles.

At the Carmel Invitational, which is an varsity-only showcase, Recht and Johnson both hoped to have strong showings. Recht dominated her competition until the Championship game, where she fell to the number-one ranked player in the state. Johnson won two matches before losing to the same Munster player that defeated her at State last year. The number one, two, and three doubles teams took fourth at Carmel as well. The girls played East Noble on Tuesday and won all varsity points. Recht placed first while Johnson placed second.

Early in the season, the weather had a big impact on whether the tennis team can play and practice. If the temperature is below 46 degrees, they are not allowed to practice. Another factor that contributes to the team practicing is precipitation. The coaches have to be very particular about rain and other standing water, because the white lines surrounding the court become very slick.

In the case that practice is not permitted outside, the team either travels to the Wildwood Racquet Club to play indoors, or they resort to conditioning drills.

"I think we will have a strong team this year and that we have great potential for the upcoming season," Johnson said.

Strong pitching carries softball in early play

By Kara Busse
Writer

Resiliency has been key for the varsity softball team ever since tryouts took place two months ago. Coach Clagg openly spoke of his displeasure over several key seniors choosing not to participate in the sport this year, but he stressed that the team has the potential to succeed. However, weather cancellations and indoor practices after Spring Break have hindered the players' progress, many athletes admitted.

"Because of the weather, our team has been stuck in the gym for practices, and we've had games cancelled," Melissa Harber (10) said.

In order to make up games missed because of rain or cold weather, the Lady Spartans have been scheduled to play five to six games a week, something several players admitted does eventually take a physical toll. Despite the rain, the girls continue to maintain a positive outlook, and with better weather conditions on the horizon, the opportunity for make-ups seems promising. Since the weather began clearing, the Lady Spartans have done their best to get back into a routine.

Against Concordia, the girls battled the Lady Cadets throughout the game, eventually squeaking out a one-run victory, 6-5.

After the team began their season with a step in the right direction with the win against the Cadets, they played their second game at home against Heritage. They managed another solid effort, jumping on Heritage with several early runs and didn't look back, as they cruised to a 6-2 win. Nikki Wilson (10) hit the first home run of the season for the team and came just a few feet shy of a second, eventually ending up with a triple on the play.

"During our winning games, our hitting was really good, but our defense struggled due to errors," Melissa Harber said.

After the first two games, the girls went up against a tough team, Huntington North. The Huntington North pitching staff proved to be one of the toughest the Lady Spartans had seen all season.

"The pitcher was probably pitching around 60 mph. She struck out players like 12 times," Melissa Harber said.

One opposing pitcher sparked controversy when she hit Mallory Harber in the elbow, causing some severe bruising. She, however, downplayed the incident.

"It hurt, but I didn't let that get to me. I just dropped my bat and went to first," Mallory Harber said.

Huntington North also proved to be a fantastic defensive teams, turning difficult plays like they were routine fly balls. The combination of a good defensive effort and strong pitching spelled a 5-1 victory for Huntington North, who handed the Lady Spartans their first lost.

Next, the girls went up against Bishop Luers, which soon turned into a marathon. The game lasted sixteen innings total before finally being called. The game ended in a 1-1 tie.

The Lady Spartans followed up the tie to Luers with back-to-back wins against New Haven and Angola. The game against the Lady Bulldogs was called after five innings due to the ten-run rule.

Last weekend, the Lady Spartans again took to the diamond in the Concordia Invitational. The girls fell in 11 innings to Marion but rebounded in their second contest of the day to defeat Concordia. Most recently, last Monday, April 23, the girls defeated East Noble in a conference matchup, 5-3.

Many players said they are happy with the team's strong start and said they will lean on upper-classmen leadership the rest of the way.

"I think the rest of the season we should do really well, but there will be some tough competition coming up," Jacqui Matheis (10) said. "We're going to need to work hard and hopefully have fun at the same time."

Intramural dodgeball encourages competition

By Mat Mikesell
Writer

With the increasing popularity of the fast-paced and adrenaline-pumping game known as dodgeball, students have not missed out on the chance to join intramural dodgeball. The competition moves to the YMCA this year after enjoying a successful campaign last year. With 16 teams signed up to participate in this year's tournament, players hope for another enjoyable experience this time around.

Each team plays once a week, either on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. The times of the games depend on which day also. Two games are held on Mondays and Wednesdays while four are held on Fridays.

The rules of intramural dodgeball are fairly straight-forward. Most of the rules that were used for Dirty Duckers and the Midnight Madness competition at Dance Marathon apply to the intramural games, with a few exceptions.

Each team consists of eight players and must have two girls each per team, and one of the girls must be on the court at all times during play. Each game is made up of seven rounds. A best-of-seven series is played to determine the overall winner of the game. The standings are kept track of throughout the season, and a tournament is held at the end to determine whether the overall champion.

James Klonica (10) is a sophomore dodgeball player. He shares the thoughts of many students that dodgeball is a great way to stay in shape and have a good time in the process.

And then of course there's getting to hit other classmates.

"Playing dodgeball just gives me an adrenaline rush," Klonica said. "I get pumped when I hit somebody with a ball."

Other students said they play dodgeball as a way to hang out with their friends and just because they enjoy the competitiveness that the sport offers.

For many students, word is still getting around about the presence of intramural dodgeball, thus many students are participating for the first this spring.

But dodgeball is not a brand new thing to them. One way or another, just about everyone has either played or watched dodgeball. Intramural dodgeball is a league of high competition with high stakes.

"This is my first year playing intramural dodgeball. When I got asked to join a team I took full advantage of it." Kassie Heinzman (10) said.

Early predictions have the Lava Trolls, Cunningham Muffins, and Odenators as teams that could contend for the championship, mainly due to these teams' experience in the competition and upperclassmen leadership.

"We're going to give 110% to each game," Phil Reiman (11) said. "We are going to show our opponents no mercy."

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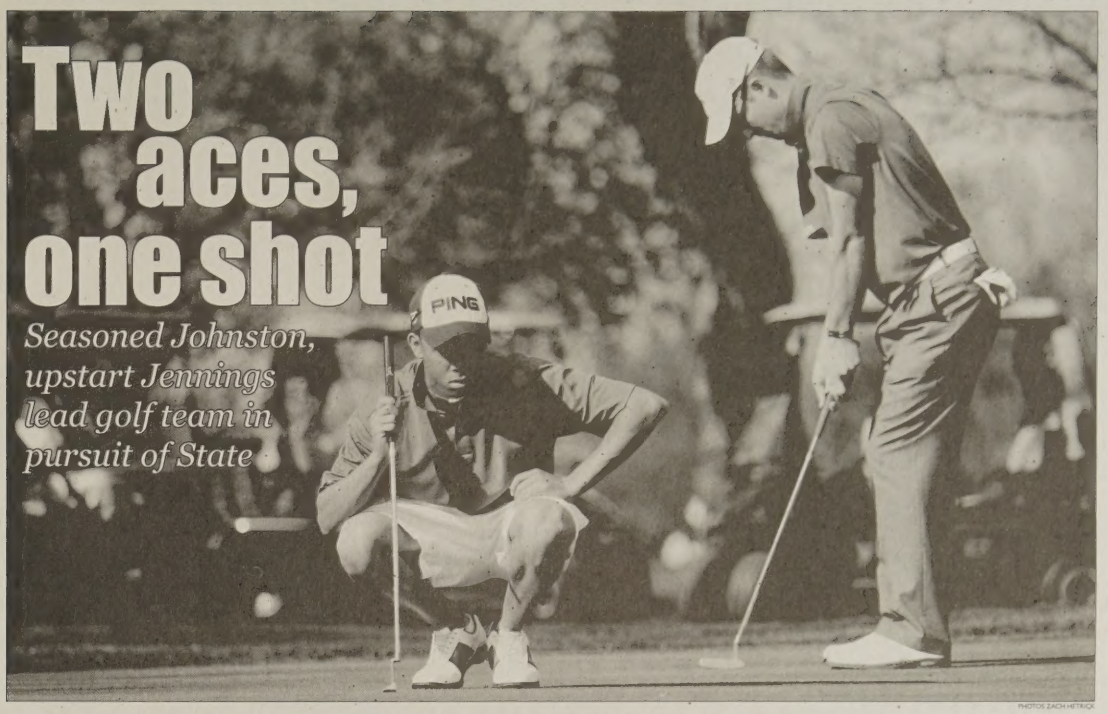
Two aces, one shot

Seasoned Johnston, upstart Jennings lead golf team in pursuit of State



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Erich Johnston (12) and Al Jennings (9) line up their shots on a green at Tuesday' match against Norwell. The team has compiled a perfect 4-0 record thus far in the season, 3-0 in conference play.

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The boys golf team made a trip to regionals last season, eventually placing fourth and failing to move on to semi-state.

At the time, the team was led by Erich Johnston (12) and Nate Wine ('06), one of which remains this year to hopefully lead his team further into the postseason. Although Wine has graduated, the team makes up for his loss with several experienced golfers and one freshman phenom, Al Jennings (9).

"Nate Wine was the only senior varsity letter winner that we lost, and we are bringing back a lot of experience. Michael Mercier (11), Nick Arnold (11), and Mat Wilson (11) are a year older and more experienced, so we look for them to improve their game," Coach Rod Parker said.

Returning from last year's team is Johnston, who was named First-Team All-State, and Coach Parker hopes that he will improve even more. Replacing Wine's number two spot this year is Jennings. The current varsity lineup consists of Johnston, Jennings, Nick Arnold (11), Michael Mercier (11), and Grant Sawyers (10).

"Al Jennings is very experienced, a good golfer, and we look for him to play a big role this year. He is currently in the number two spot, and we expect...him to score low and do that consistently" Coach Parker said.

> *"Al Jennings is very experienced, a good golfer, and we look for him to play a big role this year."*
>
> **Rod Parker**
> Golf Coach

Bad weather has cancelled several of the boys golf practices and forced them to schedule matches in quick succession in order to make up rain cancellations.

"We don't have any physical practice inside so it does hurt to have canceled practices, but it feels good when we do well in adverse conditions" Wilson said.

On Friday, April 13, the boys golf team played against DeKalb and won 149-161. The team was five over par and was led by Johnston and Jennings, who both tallied a score of 36.

However, on Saturday, the team played a nine-hole match due to snowy conditions on the course.

Scores by the varsity golfers varied from 35 to 51, mainly due to the bad weather with low temperatures, winds, and snow. The team, however, placed second at the invitational.

Monday, April 16, the Spartans defeated Concordia 159-171, with Jennings compiling the lowest score, a 36, while Johnston scored a 39. The next day, the Spartans edged out Columbia City 151-156, with Arnold posting a 2-under 34 to lead all players.

Tuesday, the Spartan golfers improved to 4-0 overall (3-0 in conference) with an easy 164-181 win over the Norwell Knights. Mercier led the team with a 40, with Johnston a stroke behind.

"We did well last year even though we did not make it out of regionals," Wilson said. "This year I believe we can make it out of regionals, and hopefully do well at State."

Erich Johnston (12) watches his shot.

Boys, girls track hit 'critical part' of season

By Nick Arnold
Writer

Bad weather has affected no sport harder than girls and boys track, who had several early-season meets canceled that will not be able to rescheduled. Regardless, the teams have been forced to deal with the cards they've been dealt.

"It has definitely been hard trying to work around the weather," Katie Beutler (12) said.

Even though indoor practices give runners the opportunity to practice shielded against the weather, many prefer running outdoors.

"Running indoors is actually harder on your legs," Megan Terrell (10) said. "The turns are tighter and it is generally just not as fun as being outdoors."

The girls fell in their first outdoor meet against Huntington North, where they were defeated by a narrow margin of eight points.

"It was disappointing to lose by only eight, especially when track meets usually involve hundreds of points," Terrell said.

The boys began their outdoor season with an easy win against Elmhurst. Though the shear size of Homestead's program overwhelmed the Trojans, the team was still pleased with their victory.

"The size of our team is obviously an asset," Saalfrank said. "In comparison to other years, we have an especially talented group of distance runners."

In last Saturday's Penn Kingsmen Relays, the girls placed fourth out of a field of fourteen teams. Katie Beutler (12) set a new school record in the long jump with a jump of 17' 8.75", while also finishing second in the 100, fifth in the 200, and contributed to a third place finish for the 400 meter relay team. Stephanie Mitchell (12) placed second in the shot-put, while setting a new school record of 40' 25". Kelley Strothmann (11) and Whitney Washington (10) contributed points in the 400. On Tuesday, the girls won by a narrow margin of four points over Carroll and DeKalb.

Last Saturday, the boys were victorious at the Harding Invitational, where they won five individual titles on the way to scoring 168 points. The 1,600 meter relay team, composed of Ross Heckber (11), Hunter Hall (12), Andrew Schroeder (12) and Doug Snyder (11), finished first by three seconds.

The change in sectional this year for the teams should give them a better chance to advance in the postseason.

"We basically moved from a powerhouse sectional to one that we can realistically do well in," Saalfrank said. "We are definitely excited about it."

Both the boys and girls teams are assisted by coaching staff with experience in track and field. With Ian Wilson joining the boys distance runners for his first year as a track coach, the team is poised to perform well. Wilson also coaches the boys cross country program. With many of the same runners performing in both cross country in the fall and track in the summer, there is hardly a time when athletes can find a break.

"There is only about a month between the seasons when we actually have a break," Saalfrank said. "But even then, most of us choose to run."

"The two sports are pretty similar," Terrell said. "Track seems a little more exciting in some aspects though. There are more events to watch, but they both are really fun."

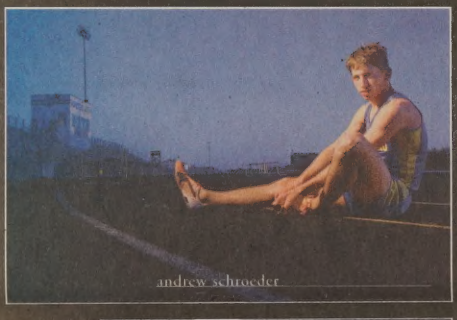
To many athletes, running represents a punishment or something that is otherwise not enjoyable. But some might be surprised to hear that even runners themselves get tired of their sport.

"Sometimes I get tired of practicing a little," Beutler said. "But by the time meets start up, the season gets really fun, and it all balances out."

spring sportraits

photos by suzie reecer and zach hetrick

taylor harruff


andrew schroeder

erich johnston

amy recht

midori layton

katie veith and hunter hall

ryan wright

issue 13 volume 37
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fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

SEE PAGE 4A.

earthfest
TWO THOUSAND SEVEN

Friday, May 11, 2007

Teachers vote to stay in associations

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

"Union labor" generally evokes images of construction crews or dock workers. Many people fail to realize that any group of professionals can organize into a union to protect their interests. SACS teachers have been associated with a district union, as well as the Indiana State Teachers Association and the National Education Association for several years. Yet in recent months, many had considered leaving. Last week educators voted to remain with these organizations rather than split from them.

Associations

Roughly half of SACS educators are members of the Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA) and the National Education Association (NEA). These associations provide several valuable services to educators.

The vote was made in an attempt to keep more of the union dues local. SACS teachers pay $614 each year in dues according to the SACS union website, and only about $4,100 dollars remain locally while over $115,000 go to the state and national associations. A split from the national and state unions would have meant all funds would stay local.

Union leaders also hoped that the split from national unions would encourage more union membership.

"Well the most obvious benefit is that we can increase local membership," Woodside technology teacher and union member Mike Gorman said. "About 50% of our teachers [from SACS] are currently members of the union."

Other teachers have felt that the split would not be helpful and that teachers should continue to support the state and national associations because of the positive work they do in education.

"The ISTA is a lobbying group. The question is, are they lobbying for the needs of Southwest Allen County or are they lobbying for other public schools within the state of Indiana such as those located in downtown Indianapolis?" Goreman said. "Southwest has different needs that a lot of other school districts. But, the negatives of cutting away from the union are that we are no longer contributing to this organization that works constantly for education reform."

SACS teachers do not use state representatives during contract negotiations.

"The thing is, the state union is looking at total education," Gorman said.

See Teachers Vote on page 2A

Cast shake-up bends, does not break musical, actors promise tune-ups for weekend

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

It's still over an hour before show-time, but Alex Tordi (11) stands on-stage pouring over lines and blocking instructions as opening night of the drama department's spring musical Crazy for You draws near. Just minutes earlier, Tordi was elsewhere, mulling the lines of a different role altogether.

A little over two hours before Tordi was originally scheduled to arrive for opening night, he received a call saying he was needed to step into a role he had originally only been an understudy for. However, because Mike Peck (12) was not able to participate in last weekend's performances, Tordi was employed to play Bela Zangler, the second-largest male role of the show. Luckily for Tordi, he had read Zangler's part in practice several times and was comfortable enough to make a go at it in front of an audience.

"I was nervous but also kind of excited. I always keep a script with me, so I knew some of the lines for all the scenes," Tordi said.

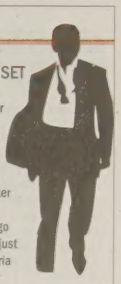
In general, Tordi said it wasn't a great performance but that he felt he did "pretty well" considering the circumstances.

"I had to ad lib a lot, which I am not comfortable doing, but I had to," Tordi said. "As a whole, I was pretty happy with it."

Tordi's co-star Phil Thompson (12), who plays Bob-

See Musical on page 2A

BRIEFS



PROM PLANS SET

Themed "Casino Royale," The Junior Senior Prom will take place May 19. The event will be held at the Grand Wayne Center from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Tickets go on sale next week just outside the cafeteria doors. The cost for juniors is $20 per person. Seniors are free to attend. After Prom will be held in the gyms from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. The event costs $2 per person, and is sponsored by the Parent Club.

SORRELL ACCEPTS DEAL

Woodlan High School (EACS) journalism teacher Amy Sorrell agreed to a settlement allowing her to continue to teach last week. She will be transferred to Heritage High School where she will teach English. She is banned from teaching journalism for three years. The Tomahawk, Woodlan's newspaper, is now completely under principal control.

TOP 10 FOR CLASS OF '07

(in alphabetical order)
Danielle Gauthier
Karolina Heyduk
Leslie Holbrook
Alexander Kartman
Eric Krafcheck
Kelly Landrigan
Conor Meeks
Kimberly Sanders
Eric Shulz
Harikiran Vasu

BRINGING THE WAR HOME

In the next issue of the Spartana look for our third and final installment. Part III will include letters from soldiers overseas describing the conflict in their own words.

BRINGING THE war HOME
Part III of III

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories ctd. DECA finishes their season with trip to nationals in Florida
PAGE 3A, Opinions/Editorial: Letters from Brian Marks (12) and Maggie Peters (10) respond on Iraq
PAGE 4A, Life: Earthfest highlights schools talent in outdoor fund raiser
PAGE 5A, Life: Skyler Villers plans to fly high next year as he joins the Air Force Academy in Colorado
PAGE 6A, Life: Theft in the hallways, classrooms investigated
PAGE 7A, Life: 'Spiderman' falls short of the hype, Purdy says
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: 'Crazy For You' photographs
PAGE 1B, Sports: Boys, girls track wins NHC conference
PAGE 2B, Sports: Mercier (11) and golf team crack top five in state for the first time this season
PAGE 3B, Sports: Girls doubles tennis players still waiting for finalized roster
PAGE 4B, Sports: Baseball team rides high on strong defense

CORRECTION

In the last issue an article which appeared in our Life section on student mission trips included some of the names of participants from St. Elizabeth's who traveled to West Virginia on a mission. Following a request, the names of all members of that trip are listed: Erica Wurst (9), Kara Wygant (9), Rachel Hamm (11), Tom Childers (12), Kristen Witham (11), Margaret Dister (10), Kevin Wunderlin (9), Meghan O'Mara (9), Katie O'Keefe (11), Amanda Stoffler (11), Lauren Bachle (11), Lauren Wagner (11), Katie Romelfanger (12), and Chelsea Keen (11).

Freshmen walk with survivors, raising funds, awareness for AIDS

AIDS WALK

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

Today, 8,500 people will die from AIDS. That's the same number that died yesterday, and the day before that, and every day for decades. 39.5 million people now live with HIV or AIDS. Fifteen million children have lost one or more parents to its effects. But despite these increasingly large numbers, common stereotypes and misconceptions about AIDS remain and the disease continues to grow and spread, lingering as only a distant problem in the minds of teenagers.

In hopes to spread AIDS awareness, the Northeast Indiana AIDS Task Force sponsored its 11th annual AIDS Walk and Festival on May 5. Hana Svetlovics (9) had walked with her mom in the past, but this year she asked her friends to join her instead.

"I think it's important for [students] to know about [the walk], it's an important cause. The whole mission is to prove that [AIDS] doesn't discriminate, it's a serious disease," Svetlovics said.

Featuring an AIDS memorial quilt, a photo portrait display, and hosting a 5K walk, the team tried to send a message to local teens. Responding to the call, six Homestead freshmen, including Svetlovics, joined in the walk and hope to spread its message.

"The mood before the walk was pretty somber," Svetlovics said. "But when you were actually walking and separated into your different groups the mood picked up. For me personally it was a sad day; it's hard to see [so many people affected] but know there is no cure."

> *"I think [we] should try to help; it's just as noble to fight cancer as it is to fight aids."*
>
> Hana Svetlovics (9)
> Student

According to the Indiana Department of Health, over 11,000 Hoosiers were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 2005 alone.

See AIDS Walk on page 2A

Tanya Hack wins teacher of the year

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

This year's recipient of the school's Teacher of the Year award is special needs instructor Tanya Hack. After being involved with the program for ten years, Hack is proud to be given this award, which was presented to her by Dianne Moake and Jennifer Bay in front of her class.

"It is a great honor to get this award, working at Homestead with all the wonderful teachers here," Hack said.

Hack has been teaching for 21 years, dabbling in various subjects such as health, adapted physical education, and working in the severe and moderate disabilities program. To become licensed in severe disabilities she went back to school for her degree in 1999 and has since specialized in that area.

PHOTO KARA WALL

Tanya Hack has taught for 21 years and is licensed in severe disabilities.

"To receive this award is a way of recognizing the special needs program and what we've tried to accomplish... to be recognized for our work with special needs children has been very rewarding," Hack said.

Certain freedoms and respect given

See Teacher of Year on page 2A

Class of '07 prepared?

By Laura Summers
Writer

Performance in college—according to experts, teachers, and graduates alike—is in large part determined by the preparation students receive in high school. With freshman year coming to a close, some graduates have found time to reflect on their preparation. According to them, preparation is exactly what sets Homestead apart, and what's got the class of 2007 on the path to college success.

Taryn Lyman ('06) is finishing her freshmen year at Indiana University Bloomington, where she is majoring in physical therapy.

See Preparation on page 2A

DECA members end season with trip

Homestead DECA finishes the year strong in international competition in Orlando, Florida

By Phil Aleman
Writer

Eleven students participated in the international DECA competition "Let the Adventure Begin," in Orlando, Florida. Participants competed against DECA students from all over the United States and several other countries including Canada, Mexico and Germany and others around the world.

Unlike previous competitions in the year, where students and teams were ranked against each other, scores were only given to participants. Seven of Homestead students scored over 85%.

DECA, a self-described "Association of Marketing Students," has existed for 56 years, hoping to provide chances for future leaders. While focusing on business, the organization operates in over 4,500 high schools and has over 172,000 members.

State Officers Sarah Jones (12) and Caitlin McPherson (12) attended the final competition in Florida this season, held from April 27 to May 1.

Sarah Jones participated in the Research & Marketing event, in which she, Molly Rodenbeck (12), and Leslie Straessle (12) wrote a 22-page paper on how they would expand a new line of American Eagle clothing. Then they had to present their ideas, in the fashion of a boardroom environment, to a judge.

In 2006, McPherson went through leadership training for a week in Dallas, Texas, before becoming a State Officer and VP of Public Relations. Unlike the event Jones and her teammates took part in, McPherson's venture in Florida was a solo run.

She had to first take a 100-question test over marketing and management before being put into two role-play situations with a judge. For each scenario, McPherson had ten minutes to plan a strategy to her proposed predicament and then ten minutes to perform and explain her idea to the judge.

"It's been really fun, and I got to meet a lot of new people," McPherson said.

"[BPA] opened up a lot of scholarship opportunities," Jones said. "It looks really good on college resumes, and I encourage everyone to try it."

Earlier in the year, 90 students participated in the district competition at Snider High School. The competition was held on February 25, for two days, 68 members of DECA contended. The team placed fifth in the state.

As the school's marketing teacher, Brian McNeal is the school's DECA advisor, and has been for 12 years now. McNeal describes his role as being one who provides opportunity for those aspiring to achieve someday in real life business after school.

DECA members and advisor Brian McNeal pose for a photograph during the Florida nationals.

He helps students prepare for the contests by giving them studying material to review or study prior to competition season. While some is made up of pre-made material, a large portion of it is composed of research McNeal has complied on his own.

Anyone who is in a marketing class or almost any other type of business class is eligible to join DECA.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Meg Warner (12) and Mike Peck (12) perform during a dress rehearsal of the musical,

Musical, continued from 1A

by Child in the western-style musical, and drama director Jennifer Fisher, were not as modest about the performance, calling Tordi "exceptional."

"I give Alex a lot of credit. He did really well, especially in an emergency situation...[Tordi's character] is only on-stage for 15% of the time, but the part is really important to the story. It could have been really bad," Thompson said.

"Alex did an amazing job. Considering the circumstances he couldn't have done any better," Fisher said. "He didn't miss a line I think."

Assistant director Ernsberger filled the vacant spot left in the cast by Tordi. Ernsberger, who has been acting professionally for years, essentially learned the role of the father in about an hour before taking the stage. Fisher said Ernsberger "got to know the cast a lot better" because of the situation.

Due to the sudden cast changes, Fisher decided to deem Friday a "practice performance," and the audience was told prior to the show that any ticket from opening night would be good for any other show, free of charge. Thompson applauded the decision.

"I told her she should either cancel Friday's show or make it a [practice] performance," Thompson said.

"Friday night...the show went on; it had to go on," Fisher said.

Crazy for You follows wannabe singer Bobby Child and his thwarted attempt to make it big on Broadway. After the esteemed producer Bela Zangler refuses to give Bobby a chance, he is sent by his mother to foreclose on a run-down theater in Deadrock, Nevada. There, Bobby falls in love with the owner's beautiful daughter Polly and hatches a plan to save the theater and his future with the love of his life.

As a whole, the cast and Fisher seemed happy with the first weekend and vowed to tweak the necessary things in order to put together a solid second weekend.

"We had doubts. We had to choreograph at the last minute, but dress rehearsals went very well, and we had a lot of confidence from that. It was a very successful opening weekend," Tordi said.

The final two performances for Crazy for You will be held today and tomorrow, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $7.00 at the door.

"Obviously, we need to work on getting Ernsberger and Alex more comfortable in their roles. Also, there were some issues with set and light cues that will be corrected for this weekend," Thompson said. "Things will click and go better, and there won't be any dead space between lines. The audience really picks up on things like that."

Teachers Vote, continued from 1A

"[SACS] teachers are not the majority; we aren't representative of other school districts throughout this state. The state union has to represent the majority, and that's what they are doing. I think you need somebody in Indianapolis that will represent you. The choice is now made, we are going to stay affiliated. Now we go from where we are at."

Social Studies teacher Jim Schmidt is also a member of the union, and supported the decision to remain in the ISTA and NEA.

"I think it's very important that all teachers support their professional associations," Schmidt said. "It's more than just belonging to a union. It's about the services and the benefits we receive from these organizations."

Schmidt pointed out the health, legal, and financial support educators receive as reasons to remain in the associations. That politicians often make decisions about education is one reason to support the organizations, who can influence these decisions, Schmidt said.

Schmidt also says that, while he believes teachers should support the associations, it's not necessary for educators to agree completely with what the NEA or ISTA do.

"It's like supporting a political party: Not all Republicans agree with 100% of what Republican lawmakers do. The same is true with the NEA or ISTA."

AIDS Walk, continued from 1A

"I didn't realize how many people had AIDS in the city of Ft. Wayne," Jordan Corley (9), who walked with Svetlovics said. "I can look across the street and think that no one in my neighborhood has AIDS, but in real life someone might and I wouldn't even know it."

AIDS, which rarely has detectable external symptoms, is most commonly passed through needle use and sexual intercourse. HIV or human immunodeficiency virus kills blood cells that fight infection and disease.

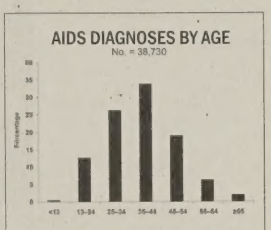
AIDS or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome develops after HIV destroys the immune system.

"In Allen County, one out of six people testing positive for HIV is a teen. The national average is one in four. It is rampant. This isn't a homosexual disease. It is in the heterosexual community, and no one wants to talk about it or listen," Sue Nation, walk coordinator of the Northeast Indiana AIDS Talk Force Inc., said in an interview with K.O Jackson for the Journal Gazette.

"It's a stereotype that people discriminate against AIDS…because it comes from drug use and unprotected sex," Svetlovics said. "Don't discriminate. I think [we] should try to help; it's just as noble to fight cancer as it is to fight aids."

HIV/AIDS can be mostly prevented through the use of condoms during sex and caution when using needles. However, because the virus lies within most bodily fluids, it can be contracted if any infected fluids enter the blood stream.

"Students should participate in walks like this," Corley said. "The school stresses abstinence, but there are kids at school who aren't and [teachers] should teach them to be careful of how [sex] is going to affect them, and tell them about people who have AIDS. I think [once students here this] they will think 'Wow, I have no idea.'"



Young people in the United States are at persistent risk for HIV infection. Continual HIV prevention outreach and education efforts, including programs on abstinence and on delaying the initiation of sex, are required as new generations replace the generations that benefited from earlier prevention strategies.

GRAPHIC AND CAPTION CDC.GOV

The event posted a goal of $44,000, and in a successful fundraiser, the participants raised $46,559. The money will go to The Outreach services department to spread awareness and Care Coordination which helps those already infected by the disease.

Svetlovics and her friends were touched by the event and want to continue the message learned in the past weekend.

"Next year our personal go is $1,000 dollars, so if we get at least ten people to raise ten dollars, there you go. It is important to me; we could make this a school-wide thing"

Statistics provided by the research and support site USAID.org.

Preparation, continued from 1A

"Homestead was surprisingly extremely helpful in preparing me for the work I have to do at IU. We had to write a lot in high school and I can see that others in my classes did not have to work as hard as I did," Lyman said.

While most students still in high school may be frustrated by the amount of work that is required to do well, they should realize that it will all pay off when they begin college. College adminssions counselors and experts alike believe that high school is by far the most important experience students will have prior to college.

"At first, I was worried that college was going to be pretty hard. But after a while, I realized that it wasn't that much harder than Homestead," Lyman said.

Lyman is not the only graduate to feel that her high school academics prepared her for college.

Zac Lyons ('06) is finishing up his freshmen year at Butler University in Indianapolis. While he does not have a strong opinion concerning the amount of preparation Homestead provided for his work at college, he does feel that there was somewhat of an impact.

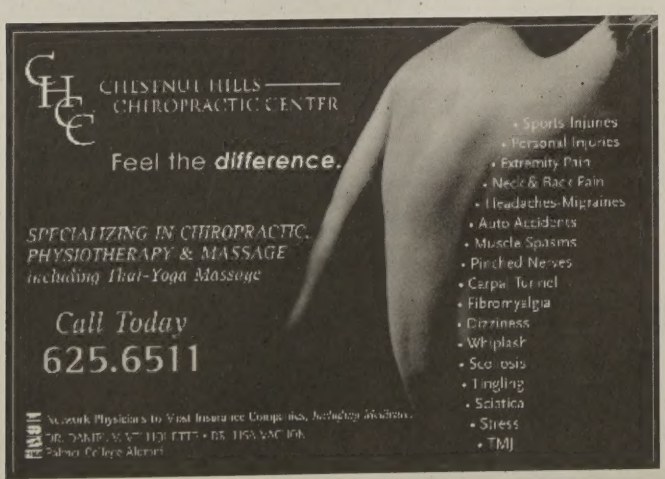
"I really haven't noticed the difficulty level at Butler. It doesn't exactly seem hard, but that could possibly be due to Homestead's academics. I think I would have been prepared even if I hadn't gone to Homestead," Lyons said.

While some students who are still attending high school may be unable to appreciate the importance of a good education early on, according to Lyons and Lyman, after realizing the difficulty of college workloads opinions are likely to change.

"I think that if I hadn't been required to work as hard as I did in high school, I would definitely be more stressed out about my workload at IU. Luckily, I had a lot of experience writing early on, so now I can finish my assignments with ease," Lyman said.

English Department Head and teacher Connie Christophersen has a unique perspective on Homestead. Prior to joining the high school staff at Heritage High School and ultimately here, she taught English at IPFW. She is also the mother of three Homestead graduates.

"I think Homestead does a superb job preparing students for life after high school," Christophersen said. "The school includes some truly challenging courses, including some that are similar to what you'd expect at a university."



Teacher, continued from 1A

to the special needs program have given Hack a respect for the Spartan faculty.

"The cooperation of staff has allowed the (special needs) students to be in classes and they have allowed modifications of curriculum so students can be successful," Hack said.

In the first years of her employment here, Hack began a business with the special needs students called the Care Shop, which stands for Challenged and Ready Every day. With this program the students make greeting cards which are delivered to eight different locations. Profits from these greeting cards are donated to a variety of service learning projects and community programs.

"The money from the cards goes to the Franciscan Center, a homeless center, and we fed 100 people at the rescue center at Christmastime," Hack said. "We buy books for kids at Lutheran Hospital... and we have sent 2,000 Beanies to Baghdad for the soldiers to give to Iraqi kids. This is probably the children's most enjoyed program."

According to administrators, Hack was chosen by "a committee of past Teachers of the Year" who go through nominations to choose the school's representative for the year. Past winners include Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay (2002), social studies teacher Tim Décker (2003), science teacher Jay Hammel (2004), business teacher Arland Reinhard (2005), and Gayle Bloom (2006).

Winners are chosen who show "concern for individual students and ability to inspire learning. Ability and willingness to work cooperatively with other colleagues. Willingness to devote time and energy to activities that result in improved instruction for children. Ability to work effectively with a variety of people in the community. Desire to stay abreast of current educational theories and practices. Ability and willingness to make contributions to the field of education. Examples of innovative practices started in the candidate's classroom."

page 3A
issue 13 volume 37
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
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Opinion

Friday, May 11, 2007

What we can learn from Woodlan

Ride north on the highway and you'll find yourself in East Allen County, where there's a school district whose leaders' ignorance and stupidity serve as a warning to our own. Just 30 minutes away, EACS is home to a principal who pulled the rug out from under his students' newspaper, a superintendent who sabotaged a teacher during a public relations statement, and a school board who sees no reason to revise a 1995 board resolution denouncing homosexuality in its students.

For a tiny Indiana school district, EACS has generated quite the media firestorm. From Washington to Charlotte, Seattle to New York, administrators have seen their dirty laundry aired and their mistakes broadcast nationwide.

In the past few months the editors of this paper have watched, (open-mouthed at times), as a district near our own imploded. We saw an article promoting tolerance of homosexuals used as ammunition against a teacher and a student newspaper. We saw administrators squirm under public scrutiny, and silence students and parents at a school board meeting. And now we've watched as administrators sweet-talked their way around changing a 1995 anti-gay edict.

SACS cannot afford to make similar errors.

Today's newspapers and media will not allow ignorance to run rampant—and like "Bat Boy" behind us—this district cannot afford to make a Woodlan-sized mistake. But that's not say this district is a The editorial board applauds SACS' policies, which protect all students from discrimination, protect the rights of student press, and let the community weigh in on important issues. That's good. More can be done.

Alongside some of the school board policies these editors are most proud of, are a few promises which have gone, at times, unfulfilled. These are some goals of SACS school board:

"...to ascertain public attitudes toward issues in education; and to discover the public's aspirations for the education of their children."

"To involve citizens in the work of the schools and the solving of educational problems. "

"To promote a genuine spirit of cooperation between the school and the community and to set up channels for sharing the leadership in improving community life."

From the reporter's chair, and occasionally, the front row of school board meetings, this board has witnessed dramatic change here—almost always unilateral. And while no newspaper has been censored, no anti-gay policy passed, we remain concerned about the level of openness and community involvement at SACS.

What we want is simple: ask, and listen. The next time drug testing, or a musical, or anything, requires serious change that will affect parents and students, give a thought to those who will be changed—students, parents, and voters. Consider that those in this building who remain silent are often most affected by change. Hold meetings where a principal sits down with all interested students. Announce school board agendas each Friday. Instead of letting students know when drug testing begins, let them know when the meeting for student input is.

This is, after all, a school, not a business. We should hold discussions, not be printing press releases.

EACS is just 30 minutes away from SACS. Thankfully, it's also miles away in policy and common sense. But let that district's error remind us how important it is to communicate, and of the cost of failing to do so.

Cozad on Autism

Dear Editor,

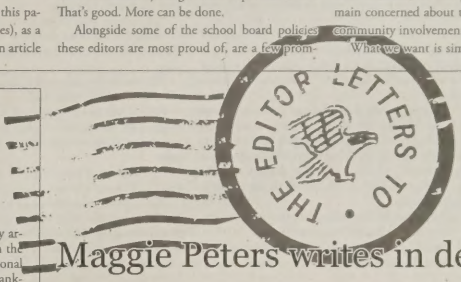
I was encouraged to find the timely article by Puja Parikh titled, "Autism on the rise, District adapts to increase in national autism rate" in your April 27 issue. Thankfully, autism awareness has increased as its incidence rises. The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Network now reports one in 150 children are challenged with autism. This issue obviously does affect our schools and teachers and will continue to for years to come. Public awareness and education, research, correct diagnosis and early intervention are all important in meeting the needs of those with autism.

Autism is a continuum of behaviors that manifest along a spectrum and must be worked with as such.

My concern is with Parikh's use of the term "disease" in reference to autism. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines disease as a "sickness or malady," which in my opinion denotes a possible cure. Autism is a continuum of behaviors that manifest along a spectrum and must be worked with as such. According to the Autism Center of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, "Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are a group of developmental disabilities defined by significant impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. ... ASD begins before age three and continues throughout a person's life." Autism is not a disease.

I believe as appropriate interventions are discovered through research and individuals challenged with autism are correctly diagnosed and receive those appropriate interventions they will prosper academically. When those on the autism spectrum are treated as human beings rather than students with a disease by our school communities, this growing population of gifted Americans will find their rightful, productive place in our society.

Thank you for your time,
Kay Cozad
Homestead parent



Exercise your right to student expression: E-mail letters to thespartana@gmail.com or drop letters off in the pub room, 620.

Maggie Peters writes in defense of peace protestors

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the editorial in the April 27th issue regarding the protesters that were featured weeks earlier. Although I do not participate in the protests (and I should) I took some of the statements very personally. As an advocate of peace and an American against the war I feel that the protesters' ideas and goals they hope to achieve by protesting were degraded by the April 27th letter.

It is true, "peace cannot exist with terrorist regimes supporting terrorist cells," but does it not seem ironic that we, the USA, are trying to combat war with war. I understand that the Middle East has been plagued by civil wars for centuries, but to start a War on Terror seems to be the last thing that the United States should have done. To go to war with Iraq was the wrong choice after the September 11th attacks because it was not Iraq which is not connected with Iraq, but Afghanistan.

I agree that Saddam Hussein was a horrible leader, but he is not the only dictator that is doing horrible things to his country right now (this is not a cry for us to start another war with countries like Sudan, but rather bring attention to all the people in places of government corruption going on that are greatly in need of peace).

It is obvious that we need peace, and whether we achieve it by protesting or bringing better leaders into office, it is imperative that we recognize the corruption within our own nation and strive to fix it. The protesters are surely not going to "detract from the strength and support of America's efforts." In fact, I think the protesters are bringing more strength to America. If we turn a blind eye to all that is unpleasant, such as President Bush, no change will be made and we will continue living in a world of unrest and misunderstanding.

A common misunderstanding that I would like to get straight right now is the fact that all Democrats and pacifists are against the troops. I support the troops, I just don't support the war. I hate to see the death toll climb higher every day on the American and Iraqi sides alike because it just means that there was another needless death. To see young men fighting for a war that does not need to be fought means that their lives are put in great danger on a daily basis. I hope for the safety of the troops, which means setting a reasonable timetable and bringing them home. Peace is patriotic.

I wish the issue of peace didn't have to come into politics because I know almost that almost everyone wants peace, but I think that the issue lies in how we achieve the peace. In order to achieve peace, we must treat every human being with kindness, love, and hope—and we must debate the issues to come to a better understanding of one another in hopes to attain peace on a smaller level.

I am not trying to personally attack Ashley Heath's editorial, and I know that our opinions greatly differ, but I still have great respect for her as a human and as a schoolmate of mine. I also think it is important as Americans to exercise our right to express our opinions and agree to disagree.

Sincerely,
Maggie Peters

"I would like to say that I am a nonviolent soldier. In place of weapons, you have to use your mind, your heart, your sense of humor, every faculty available to you...because no one has the right to take the life of another human being."
-Joan Baez

Brian Marks writes on Iraq and ignorance

Editor,

Upon reading the letter in the last issue of the Spartana, I was struck by a rather sour feeling in my stomach. The letter went against everything I believed in respect to the war in Iraq. Its author was obviously not a fan of a recent article on peace protestors from Homestead.

According to Ms. Heath, the peace protestors were described in terms designed to romanticize their quest and make them come off as martyrs "for a noble cause." If one must only overcome "freezing temperatures, obscene language from the opposition, and lethargy," then there must be an awful lot of martyrs roaming the streets. It takes a bit more than that to become a martyr. However, peace protestors do fight one thing that is much more vicious than mere cold or a few bad words: our own ignorance.

Later in the letter, Ms. Heath discussed the crimes of Saddam Hussein, former dictator of Iraq. "He used his intelligence agencies to train the terrorists of al-Qaida and after September 11th he provided sanctuary and support for the terrorists responsible." The factual inaccuracies in that one little sentence astounded. I immediately drove out to my local Barnes and Noble and purchased a copy of the 9/11 Commission Report.

Upon returning home, I flipped to the index, found "Hussein" under the Hs, and within five minutes had attained information refuting the letter's claims. Regarding Osama Bin Ladin's attempts to establish training camps, "as well as assistance in procuring weapons . . . there is no evidence that Iraq responded to this request. (61)" On reports of Osama Bin Ladin meeting with Saddam Hussein, ". . . to date we have seen no evidence that these or the earlier contacts ever developed into a collaborative operational relationship. Nor have we seen evidence that Iraq cooperated with al Qaeda in developing or carrying out any attacks against the United States. (66)" If this information is so easily accessible, how is it that so many people can put forth their opinions without bothering to check simple facts? We're fighting two wars now: one war against Iraqis, and one war against ignorance. We are close to victory in neither.

But I started out discussing peace protestors. Ms. Heath feels they do not support the troops or the war. However, the two things are quite different. To support the troops is to pray for their safety and health. To support the war is to endorse fighting for ignorant causes on the other side of the world. Peace protestors are the greatest supporters of troops; they would not sacrifice the lives of soldiers for meaningless causes. I close with one sentence that struck me: "Education programs are irrelevant in defeating terrorism and are no substitute for our military action." That sounds an awful lot like "The sword is mightier than the pen."

Brian Marks

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

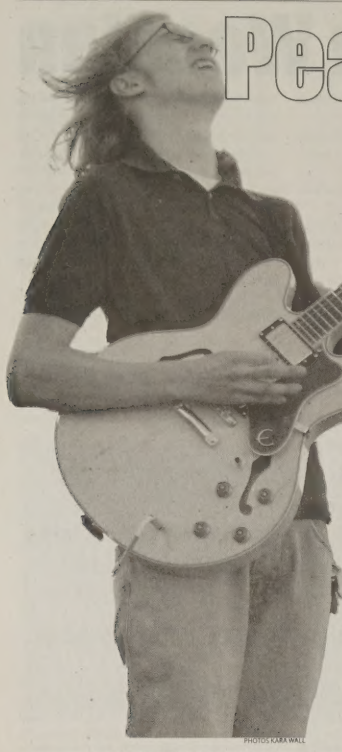
Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

Peace, Love, Earthfest



PHOTOS: KARA WALL

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

For the first time since it's debut five years ago, Earthfest finally held the stage it was supposed to: outside and in the sun. As the evening waned and the sun sunk behind the building, the courtyard was still warmed by the music and the students who had gathered.

"I'm really happy it was finally outside this year, it really contributed to the atmosphere," Adam Sirois (11) said. "Everybody was able to just be out there chilling, listening to some great music."

Seniors as well as underclassmen experienced their first outdoor Earthfest this year, as the last three events were held inside. Last year, Earthfest was pushed back in hopes of better weather, but was ultimately indoors. Two weeks ago, Earthfest was able to go on as scheduled.

"The weather was great. It was a little windy, but that didn't bother us much at all," Phil Culbertson (9), who plays the drums for Character Zero, said.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., students trickled in to the courtyard between the Freshman Academy's "gerbil tunnels" to sit in the sunshine while listening to the seven bands perform. Character Zero, The Marksmen, The Groove Merchants, The Andy Scheer Quartet, Brideandgroom, Awkward Silence, and Mack and Co. got up on stage to play their music and let the students groove to their individual beats.

"I was surprised to see all that talent, I didn't know we had that much in our school," Quinn Brenneke (9) said.

Prior to the concert, the bands sent in demo-tapes as auditions for Earthfest and practiced their music as much as possible.

"We had written a couple of songs a few weeks ago and practiced every so often, but the week of Earthfest we practiced almost every day," Culbertson said.

These student bands were pleased to receive recognition from their peers.

"Most people there were really open-minded… It was tight just having people listen to us for once," Culbertson said. "It's always just been me and Patrick [Ryan (9), fellow bandmate,] up in my room. We plan to do it just about every year."

Although the stereotypical Earthfest attendee may be seen as the "hippie" type, many groups of people showed up to watch the bands jam.

"Earthfest was a bunch of different music with a bunch of different people," Sam Scarengelli (9) said.

While the weather was what permitted the "fest" to be held outdoors, the wind proved slightly difficult for some performers.

"Wind does not mix with sheet music," Brian Marks (12) said, whose papers fluttered in the wind during the performance by The Marksmen.

Brian Laipple (12) and Larry Buchanan (12) grilled hot dogs to sell, along with candy and beverages.

"My favorite part about performing was that I got free food," Sirois said.

Money raised from the event will be put to an environmental cause. In the past, the profit has been donated to such causes as the Aboite Trails program.

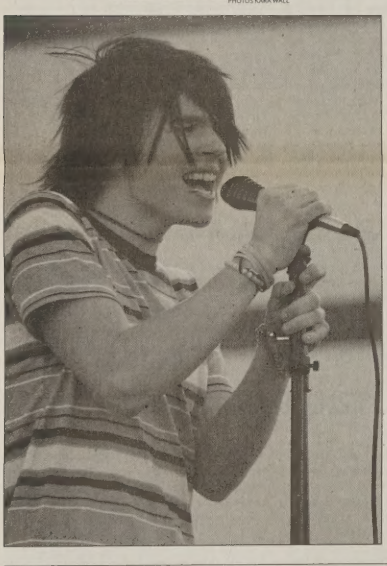
"The money we raised will definitely be going to a great cause to help the environment," Brenneke said.

On the day before the musical festivities were held, an Ultimate Frisbee tournament kicked off the Earthfest celebration. Students signed up their own teams for this double-elimination event, which was held on the football field.

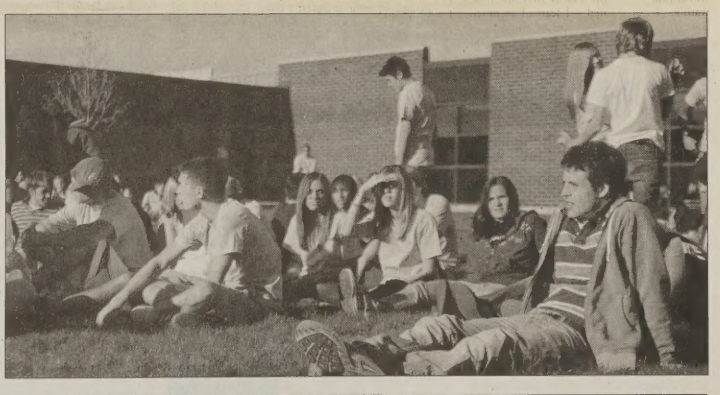
"I was pleased that six teams signed up and I thought the tournament went really well," Galen Harden (12), who was in charge of the event, said.

The winning team consisted of Zach Hetrick (12), Larry Buchanan (12), Andrew Schroeder (12), Mike Cobb (12), Danny White (12), Brian Laipple, Mario Baldassari (12), and David Blake (12), who each received Earthfest tee shirts and free admittance to the concert.

"This year's shirts really said it all," Evan Hanley (10) said. "'Peace. Love. Earth. Music. Friends. Relax.'"



Clockwise from bottom left: The crowd dances to Awkward Silence; Jordan Witzegreuter (11) sings with his band; John Swain (12) rocks out on his guitar; The Marksmen hold their music down in the wind, trying their best to perform; the crowd watches against the sun as various bands played. Jon Kolhoff (12) plays "Freebird" on the guitar.



Staying connected: relationship of students to the administration

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

A girl complains about her finals before Christmas break, another student wonders why he has to get drug tested. Both students are left feeling as if the rules and policies were decided behind closed doors - but while some students feel disconnected from the individuals in charge, the administration has its doors open to all student input.

"I can't speak for everyone, but I feel like…. the administration is accessible to the students," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "Whether or not that is publicly understood or whether people know that… I have several students who know that I'm available anytime. They know they're welcome in anytime in an emergency situation, but I only talk to so many students so, does everybody know that my door is always open? Probably not, but hopefully, within all of the administrators, they know that we're here and willing to [help]."

With many policies in place in the past few years that have caused controversy among the student body, students wonder why their voices aren't heard more.

"They always give us those surveys concerning pressing matters at our school, but no one ever takes those seriously, so often they don't even count for anything," Katie Lauer (11) said. "I think students have a significant say as to what goes on in the student body, but actual school related situations, not quite as much."

Others disagree and feel that individual student voices are heard.

"I personally feel that I do have input as a student concerning what goes on at school to some extent," Megan Koepke (12) said. "The administration does listen to students' input, but what they actually do with that input is out of my control."

But the administration's attention to what students want is a moot point if students are intimidated by the mere thought of speaking directly and face-to-face to a member of the administration.

"I often feel intimidated when passing by them in the hallway, let alone talking to them," Lauer said. "I feel like that unless I have something very important to say, I should just keep to myself."

While the administrators are unquestionably busy behind the doors of their offices, students feel that the time they take to see students face-to-face is vital.

"I firmly believe that the administration cares about the opinions and well-being of the students," Koepke said. "At the same time, I find that the administration's accessibility does not coincide with the availability of a typical high school student. I think that it makes students more comfortable and at ease when they know the administrators are available and willing to not only talk, but [to] listen."

Homestead also provides other ways for students to have a say in matters; No Drugs No Alcohol (NAND) meets with Anita Gross, the school's social worker, to discuss prevalent topics with a wide range of students in meetings that include Bay and Principal Dianne Moake. Student Government acts as a liaison between the administrators and the student body. Southwest Allen County school board meetings are held every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

And while students desire their voices to be heard with the administrators, those in charge have the responsibility to run a school; becoming knowledgeable of every student on a personal basis is unrealistic.

"I suppose the administration could get to know the student body a little better," Lauer said. "I know it's hard with over 2000 students, but part of the reason it's harder to talk to them is because there isn't much of a foundation there."

AP tests: Make your mark, heavy and dark

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

Ahh…Advanced Placement Exam fortnight is here. I can tell because all the AP students are toting around those thick paperback review books and wearing vaguely pained looks. The "Cracking the AP" series from The Princeton Review features my favorite covers – multi-ethnic students bent over their notebooks, number 2 pencils in hand, their heads tilted with an expression of happy concentration.

HA! Yeah, right. More like heavy-lidded, sullen teens sprawled out on their beds at 11 p.m. with packets and notecards and textbooks, logged onto Facebook and AIM so they can ask questions and complain to their friends. The review books made by Kaplan's and Barron's and Cliff's Notes just have diagonal lines and bold type – maybe their bright colors are meant to keep us awake during those night-before cram sessions?

Apparently good grades aren't enough anymore. Now you have to have that top AP score along with the A to see how good you *really* are. Colleges will look for it, we are told.

And so high school students are now expected to regurgitate and synthesize and analyze and expound on pages and pages of college-level material in three hours of multiple choice and free response questions. All that work and memorization and studying for a single digit in the mail in July that can save you thousands of dollars in college. It's more than a grade – it's money.

Still, ever since I took my first AP test freshman year, I've thought the system seemed screwy. To me, it doesn't make sense to reduce centuries of European history to 55 minutes worth of multiple choice questions, two essays, and a DBQ on the Roundheads. I always feel sorry for the authors excerpted on the AP Lit exam – their beautiful novels and essays are chopped up and parceled out so that thousands of highschoolers can skim over the sentences looking for an example of a "paradox." And how can the AP Bio graders ever know the depth of my interest in the functions of the organelles? I just hit the main points in my short-answer, timing myself so that I could move on to the next question.

Where is the joy of learning? Where is the beauty that I saw in the classroom? Can the College Board assign a numerical value to the insight I gained during a class discussion of Freudian fixation stages? Of course not.

The AP classes I've taken have always been worthwhile – it's the exams that are frustrating. I feel cheated – I learned so much more than what was on that test! And maybe I didn't learn as much about the things that they chose to cover on this year's exam.

Does this mean I regret all the hours I spent reading about the women's rights movement in 19th century America instead of reviewing all the antitrust acts? Do I wish I would've spent more time drilling myself on the citric acid cycle instead of dissecting the fetal pig? Was it a waste of time to have that huge discussion about existentialism in Hamlet when we *could've* been practicing timed essay-writing?

Not at all, College Board! NOT AT ALL. I'm glad I took AP classes at Homestead because I think I learned a great deal about exciting and beautiful subjects from some good teachers and, just as importantly, from my fellow students.

We took the AP Stats test Tuesday afternoon. The AP Spanish test ran long, so the A-Ni group was waiting in the community rooms, unsupervised, for about five minutes before we started. We were nervous-chatty, dreading the boring hours ahead of us, with many people declaring that they didn't care what they got on the exam (including me).

The door opened, and Mr. Dobias escorted in a nerdy-looking boy who wore a yellow visitor's badge. The kid had the face and haircut of a 1950's Boy Scout and was wearing a polo tucked into khaki shorts that showed off his spindly legs, which were accentuated by white pulled-up tube socks and clunky white tennis shoes.

He had a purple pencil box in one hand and a big bottle of water in the other. He looked like one of those pasty little geeks from the National Spelling Bee on ESPN. Sweet, but clueless.

"Hey, what're you doing here?" I asked in a friendly way after we were all alone again.

"Well, I'm taking the AP Stats test," the nerd replied. "I usually take them at Southwest – I mean, South Side, yeah. I'm homeschooled."

"I thought so," I replied immediately, without realizing what this quick reply indicated. I tried to avoid eye contact with my classmates, who were suppressing smirks.

I guess he was oblivious to his obvious dorkdom because he said, "Really? How'd you know?"

This kid will probably get a 5 on the test. I know it's wrong to judge by appearances, but sometimes you can just tell. He probably understands all the major concepts and knows exactly what material he needs for the test.

But did he ever compute a chi-squared test on M&M color distribution? Does he have the memories of the Theresea math videos? Did he have discussions with others about statistical significance in current events? Did he have as much fun? Probably not.

I'm glad I took AP classes, but I'm not judging how much I learned by one test. The oval of my understanding of all that material might not be completely filled in, but the mark the classes left on my mind is heavy and dark.

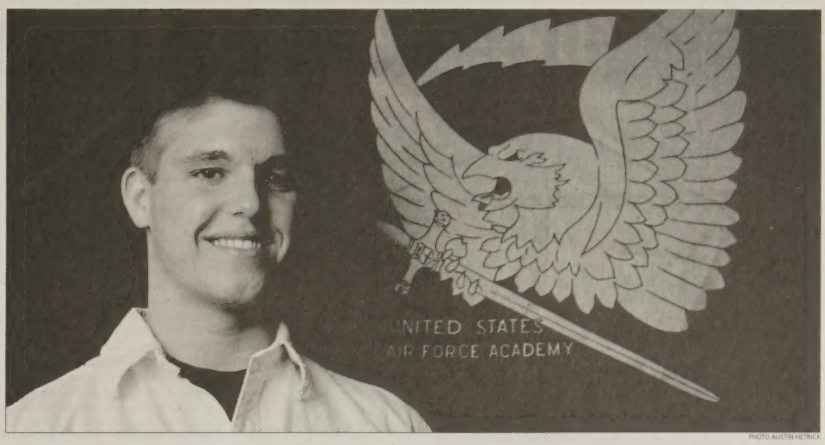


PHOTO AUSTIN HETRICK

Jetting off for Air Force Academy

Skyler Villers heads to Colorado for basic training this summer

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

He walks the halls like any other student, bright blue eyes watching the halls of Homestead for the last time. He overhears classmates talking about summer plans, and knows that his summer will be far from ordinary. Senior Skyler Villers won't spend final summer lifeguarding, hanging with friends, or even in Fort Wayne. Instead Villers will head to Colorado Springs to begins basic training with the hope of eventually flying in the United States Air Force.

Spartana: As the end of the year comes around, most seniors are looking forward to college next year. But not you.

Skyler: This summer - June 28 - I have to report to the United States Air Force Academy, and I have to start basic training. After that's over I start the academic year.

Basic training has two phases. The first phase is actually on the campus of the academy itself. You get your uniforms and learn how to march and salute. You get a book called Contrails; it's got history of the Air Force and the academy and quotes you have to recite. You have to know it verbatim because during the year upperclassmen can stop you and have you recite the quote, and if you can't you have to stop and do pushups. And that lasts for three weeks.

Then at the end of that you go into the second phase, BCT [basic cadet training] is what everyone thinks of as basic training….marching around in your fatigues, rolling around in the mud with a gun, doing obstacle courses and all that.

Spartana: What made you choose the Air Force over everything else?

Skyler: Both my parents were in the Air Force. Dad was a fighter pilot for fourteen years, my mom was working in public relations, so it's always kind of been a part of my life. And I've always wanted to serve and get a college education at the same time.

Spartana: Then I guess both of your parents were supportive of your choice.

Skyler: My mom wasn't. She really didn't want me to do it at all. She really wanted me to go to regular college and experience that whole thing. Then if I wanted to join the military after that, then that [would be] cool. But I just told her that's what I wanted to do, and they didn't really push me or anything.

Spartana: Did you ever consider doing the traditional college thing?

Skyler: I applied to Purdue and Arizona State but I could never really see myself doing a desk job for the rest of my life. I want to fly.

Spartana: What are the academics like?

Skyler: Every cadet graduates with a bachelors of science and then you have your specialized degrees after that. The summer is like elective courses –unarmed combat and survival skills – and that happens for four years. There's a glider school, there's pre-flight school courses.

After graduation, hopefully if everything goes well, I'll be attending flight school after that. It's probably thirteen months of basic flight school. And when you graduate at the end of the spring of your senior year you're commissioned as a second lieutenant. Then you have thirty days leave and then you have to report to whatever station you've been assigned.

Spartana: What are you looking forward to?

Skyler: Graduating. Freshman year is going to be terrible. But it's a stepping stone you have to take to get where you want to go. This fall I shadowed a cadet for the morning and got to experience what lunch is like there, and what classrooms look like, and marching around in uniform with four thousand other cadets.

Spartana: Is the academy expensive?

Skyler: There is no cost. The government pays for everything once you're accepted. When you're there you're considered on active duty, and you actually get paid salary while you're there. So you're getting paid to go to school, which is pretty nice.

Spartana: Does it scare you to be joining the Air Force with the war going on?

Skyler: I am completely supportive of the war. I've been keeping up on it in the paper because obviously it interests me. I don't really have a problem with the people who want peace, I think peace is a great thing and that's exactly what we're striving for. But to want us to stop fighting before the peace is kind of like the antithesis of what we're trying to accomplish.

If you're supporting peace and say you're supporting our troops, thank you, but we have a job to do. Reading about the atrocities that went on [in Iraq] and finding out about all that stuff – it's like we kind of have a moral obligation as the world power to kind of oversee all that and what's going on, and if someone can't help themselves and we're in a position to help them, we obviously need to do it.

Spartana: What about future conflicts?

Skyler: The war in Iraq is going to be a tough one to win. The Bible says there's never going to be peace in the middle east. I also see conflicts with Iran and North Korea coming, so I don't know which theater we're going to be in next.

Spartana: Recently a Homestead graduate, Gary Huber, was injured in the war. How did reading about him affect you, knowing you might be going into the same conflict?

Skyler: Reading that, hearing his thoughts on that, saying he's trying to get better just so he can get back and serve in his unit again…I got chills from that. It's a different person who is willing to sacrifice everything for people back home. But to be injured in something like that and have terrible things happen and want to go back to continue serving it's….unbelievable.

Spartana: You mentioned your religion - is that a big part of your life?

Skyler: It is. Absolutely, yes. I attend church every Sunday I can.

Spartana: Five years from now, what'll you be flying?

Skyler: F-22.

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: **Technology in our lives**

Is the ease of communication through techology making life easier or creating a generation that's disconnected?

Brian Cummiskey

Texting someone or talking with them over any sort of internet program is really just a way of saying "hey." It's an entirely different story when you try to maintain a friendly relationship with someone through electronic interaction. You may learn what movies they like, what activities they participate in, and who they have a crush on, but you can never truly get to know what kind of person they are.

To learn that, you need true interaction to see how they function in the real world. It is then that one's day-to-day morals, habits, and just way of living life can truly be determined. Summed up, little more than trivial facts can be learned through electronic communication. To truly know someone, time really needs to be spent with them.

Brad Hines

I think if people were just able to balance technology and nature then that would be grand, unfortunately that isn't the case. Most people have been trained to want new cell phones with new features, and the biggest TV money can buy, but really none of it matters.

Technology is artificial and it hasn't been forever - people are not using their technology right. They need to see what's real, there are people everywhere and the robotic mind state is utterly horrible.

Drew Alger

Yes. I'm terribly suspicious of the pervasiveness of technology into nearly every second of our lives. This is not to say I'm not guilty to some degree...but I do try to limit the grip of it on my life.

When I am online, I do a variety of what I believe are engaging activities: discovering new music, discussing music, discussing topical issues that matter, contributing to music websites, and on. I don't like to sit and stare and let my brain melt.

What really upsets me is constant,' never-ending text messaging. It's as if our vocal chords turned to dust and we turn to 3-letter blurbs that somewhat resemble words to communicate. It wouldn't be so bad if it stopped once in awhile, but for way too many people, the phone never turns off.

Think we're not covering enough controversy? Post your own threads on the Controversy group's wall and be heard.

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Avoiding theft during school hours

By Kara Hackett
Writer

Not thinking twice, a student throws his iPod and calculator into his backpack before gym and shoves it all into a locker. A period later, the items are missing, and he is left with no recourse; while stealing is a crime, many students feel that within the school their items should be safe. But a recent rash of thefts among students may change all that.

Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay, explains that most students who run into trouble are those who leave their property unattended or in an unlocked locker.

Locations like locker rooms, gym classes, and even the cafeteria, are notorious for student crimes.

"Usually [accidents occur] in locations that aren't able to be monitored by a camera or in situations that students haven't secured their belongings," Bay said.

"My calculator was stolen in the gym locker room while I was outside for gym class," Colin Pyle (11) said.

According to the student handbook, when a student is caught stealing or in possession of stolen property, they put themselves at risk of receiving multiple consequences for their destructive actions.

Students who commit mild crimes are eligible to receive an in-school suspension (ISS) or and out-of-school suspension (OSS) lasting anywhere from three to five days. Students who are guilty of multiple offences could receive up to 10 days of OSS along with an expulsion, and those who commit additional offenses after that could face legal prosecution.

"It depends on the situation," Bay said. "There have been situations where the students have hand-cuffed and taken to the Juvenile District Center. Depending on the situation and the severity and the investigation, [repercussions] could be a couple of days of out-of-school-suspension or anywhere from ISS to taken to [the] Wood [Youth Center.]"

To prevent a false alarm, students who believe that they have been stolen from should immediately perform a thorough search of the area to make sure that they did not simply misplace their lost item.

"It is important for [students] to check lost and found because maybe they would have left it somewhere else," Bay said. "A lot of times people to jump to conclusions, saying [their property] was stolen, when all they needed to do was buzz by the teacher's room or lost and found. [They should] come to the discipline office and make a report that they feel that it was stolen because if we don't have a report, then we can't follow up on anything once it's found."

The best way to prevent an accident is to leave all valuable items at home or in a safe location, away from any area where thieves could be tempted.

Many victims of theft could have prevented the theft, advises Bay, with simple methods to protect personal items.

"Lock all possessions up," Bay said. "Sometimes cases happen where kids walk into the lunch room, put their stuff down, and then go up to line, and if, within all their stuff, there is like a calculator or a phone or anything hidden in their bag, it might be surfaced and easily susceptible."

"I guess just lock things important to you in your locker everyday," Pyle said.

Bay advises a simple adjustment to one's habits when leaving items unattended to keep possessions safe, habits as simple as staying aware of the surroundings.

"Don't make it easy for someone to take something from you," Bay said. "Just be careful and beware that there are people out there that don't have the best intentions."

Talking via technology

By Megan Miller and Taylor Harruff
Writers

BRB, LOL, N2M—to anyone over 30 these letters seem to be typos. But to the majority of students in the age group of thirteen all the way to twenty, those "words" are everyday language. With the advaneements made in technology throughout the years, reliance on text messaging, AOL instant messenger, as well as Facebook for means of communication is rising.

Text messaging has taken over talking on the phone and simple face-to-face conversations.

"I send and receive about 500 text messages a day," Peter Saya (11) said.

Although for many people, text messaging has made AOL instant messaging less popular. Still, instant messenger is another popular form of communication through text. A study done for Yahoo in 2003 found that teens spend 17 hours a week online.

"I spend probably one to two hours online using Facebook and AOL instant messaging," Sam Dutiel (11) said.

An advantage to AOL instant messaging is that you're able to talk to multiple people at one time, allowing the tech-saavy generation to multi-task with technology and work.

The same Yahoo study stated that "while other generations are more likely to be wed to a single type of media...today's teens and young adults are not overwhelmed by the abundance of media choices...but rather feel empowered by it and are able to multi-task."

Facebook, the new Myspace, makes it easy to stay in contact with friends near and far.

"I think Facebook makes it easier to talk to people because you can express how you feel without feeling embarrassed," Saya said.

While Facebook - and communication through text in general - allows for easy conversation, it also detracts from the true meaning of what is being said.

"I rather talk online because it's less awkward," Dutiel said. "[But] I think life would be a lot less dramatic and there would be a lot less miscommunication if there wasn't texting and Facebook."

filmreviews

by Chris Purdy

Spider-Man 3

The first two *Spider-Man* films had so much going for them, like the fact that they're two of the greatest comic book adaptations ever made. So, since director Sam Raimi and virtually the same entire cast and crew have returned for the third installment (along with the largest budget in movie history--$300 million), we should also be getting at least the same caliber of web-slinging greatness, correct? Should, yes, but do we? Eh...not really, no.

Though still better than about 90% of all other comic movies, *Spider-Man 3* is a pretty big disappointment when compared to its outstanding predecessors. The effects are incredible, but the fights themselves, as well as the storyline, seem routine and predictable. The first half of the movie is just mediocre, unimaginative exposition, with scene after clichéd scene of things everyone already knew would happen from the trailer.

The story goes something like this: Flint Marko (Thomas Haden Church) is an escaped convict on the run from the authorities, but he accidentally falls into some contraption that separates molecules or something and turns into a man made out of sand. He also happens to be the real killer of Peter Parker's (Tobey Maguire) uncle, Ben. Go figure. Harry Osborn (James Franco) still hates Spider-Man for killing his father, so he puts on all the goblin gear and decides to try to kill him. Eddie Brock (Topher Grace) is a rival freelance photographer with a hot girlfriend named Gwen Stacy (Bryce Dallas Howard) who also happens to be Peter's lab partner in science class.

After Peter is infected with an extraterrestrial symbiotic substance that amplifies aggression, he gets hostile toward Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), humiliates Brock, and tries to take Gwen from him, which also makes M.J. jealous. Now, Eddie wants to kill him too. Story make sense? I thought so too. Very convoluted.

Then, about halfway through, we get this bizarre interlude where the movie basically turns into *The Mask*: Peter, because of the symbiote, turns emo, hair and everything. He walks around town gyrating his hips and pointing at random women on the street, and he does a dance number in a jazz club reminiscent of *Saturday Night Fever*. It's all very amusing, but it leaves the viewer thinking to himself, "what the heck just happened, and why?"

The symbiote attaching itself to Peter, thus making him more aggressive, is a terrible plot device. The meteorite simply lands by mere coincidence just a few hundred yards away from where he was, and the substance (who knows what it is, where it came from, and why?) attaches itself to him as he sleeps.

Perhaps if Peter had already become quite hostile and the symbiote simply harnessed that emotion, then our hero could truly have fought a 'battle within,' but we still would be left with an enemy that was not the result of anyone's misdoings or blind ambition, as we saw in the first two movies. He does not overcome his own flaws; instead what we have here is just a black goo that turns Peter into a bad person, and so the mistakes he makes are not his own.

The whole film kind of has this air of loose plot structure and predictability, and just as we see with the symbiote, everything else seems to be caused by a wild coincidence that is no one's fault in particular. Since the creation of Sandman and the birth of Venom both happen almost by complete chance, it rarely feels like there is a real villain or threat. Though the film manages to find its groove and pick up pace toward the end, it is too little too late, and the finale is surprisingly unsuspenseful.

Still, the movie managed to not be a complete, horrible failure, as some people will say. There are some pretty well done scenes scattered throughout the whole movie, some nice surprises here and there, and the performances are really pretty much the same as they've been throughout the series. Thomas Haden Church is particularly impressive.

It's a relatively fun popcorn movie, so if you're a fan of Spidey and you want to see what happens next, you won't want to avoid it, because it's not that bad. It's just not all that great either, and it doesn't take the series much farther.

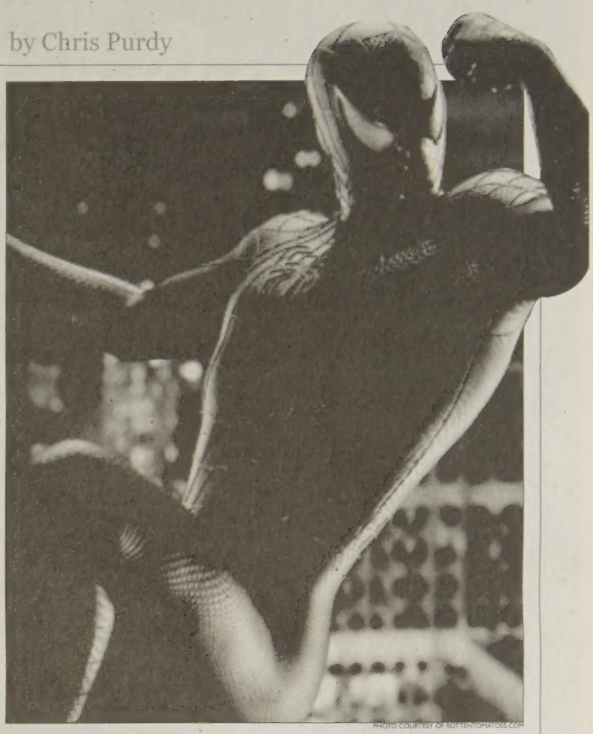

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Spider-Man 3 swung into theaters May 8 with much hype, but fell short of high expectations

Starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Topher Grace, and Thomas Haden Church; Directed by Sam Raimi.

Purdy's Rating: ★★½

albumreviews

Nine Inch Nails return after long break with best album yet

By Greg Kyes Myland
Writer

It's been nearly twenty years now since Trent Reznor and his creation dubbed Nine Inch Nails reared their ugly heads into the underground music scene of Cleveland, Ohio.

After gaining an extremely dedicated fan base, Reznor broke down the walls of his underground cage, releasing his 1994 album, *The Downward Spiral*, which debuted on the Billboard 200 at number two. Reznor continued to evolve with the 1999 release, *The Fragile*, which featured a slightly softer, more cold-blooded tone.

But then something strange happened: Reznor and Nine Inch Nails practically disappeared. Reznor fell into a severe alcohol and drug addiction and some fans and journalists suspected a retirement, and the end of NIN. But time always has a way of changing things.

In 2005, seemingly out of nowhere, Reznor (with a newly sober mind) announced the release of a new album, *With Teeth*. Reznor's addiction provided for the album's dark theme of personal conflict. However, the album was just missing something. Reznor sounded somewhat unsure of himself, and fronted the album with a few mediocre radio hits like, "The Hand that feeds."

Enter 2007 and the recent release of *Year Zero*.

After the 2005 release of *With Teeth*, NIN fans had pretty much contented themselves with waiting until 2009 or 2010 for a new album. But apparently, for Trent Reznor and Nine Inch Nails, all it takes is two years to transition from self-conflicted mediocrity to the most impressive album they have released to date. Oh yeah, I said it. Incorporating a blend of their older styles and newer styles with some completely original sounds and concepts, *Year Zero* is perhaps the best Nine Inch Nails album yet.

First off, the album's artwork is enough reason to go out and buy *Year Zero* right now. The art on the cover and interior parallels a few of the ideas the album covers such as "faith versus desperation" and "a corrupt and separated world." The actual compact disk changes colors with heat to reveal the copyright information. I freaked out a little when I first realized it, but the disk is just another piece of art that relates the albums concept of "nothing is as it seems."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Year of Zero, released April 17, 2007

The album kicks off with the increasingly chaotic instrumental track, "Hyperpower!" which leads right into, "Beginning of the End." This is probably the worst part of the album. The song is very repetitive and very boring. To make things worse, the entire song is based around a drum beat that sounds like "My Sharona."

Fortunately, the worst is over at the beginning. The most recent single, "Survivalism," is the third track. The song no doubt criticizes current U.S. policy, describing a military-run government. Musically, "Survivalism" is very reminiscent of some older NIN productions, but the more underlying electronic distortion adds a new edge to something very classic.

I guess you could say this is the most experimental and industrial sounding album NIN has released. The use of guitars is minimal, but extremely effective, such as in the fourth track, "The Good Soldier" or the ninth track titled "The Warning."

Laying over a sinister and mechanical funk groove, the sixth track, "Me, I'm Not" is perhaps one of Reznor's toughest songs since the infamous "Closer" on *The Downward Spiral*. And although "Me, I'm Not" is certainly less graphic, the two songs are very similar and share the coded theme of over indulgence and the deterioration of society.

However, the oblique and coded themes found in some of the songs on *Year Zero* are certainly offset in blunt tracks like, "Capital G." Any guesses as to who that song might be about? Here's a hint: "I pushed a button and elected him to office/ He pushed a button and he dropped a bomb."

Appropriately following "Capital G" is the anthem "My Violent Heart." One of the heavier songs on the album, "My Violent Heart" acts as a crescendo to Reznor's frustration with lyrics of rebellion laid over a heavy industrial riff.

The tenth and eleventh tracks, "God Given" and "Meet your Master," are top-notch NIN tracks that question the religious and governmental establishments in the social order. The twelfth track, "The Greater Good", acts as sort of an eerie segue into the final four tracks of the album.

Following "The Greater Good" is "The Great Destroyer." One of the best tracks on the album, the song has incredible sci-fi type qualities that contrast with a very effective guitar part. In typical Reznor fashion, the album effectively ends its incredible sixteen track span with three sequential low-key songs. Don't be mistaken though, the ending combination is by no means anticlimactic.

Whenever a band (or at least a good band) seems like they are rushing a release of an album, there is cause for concern. So it's understandable why I was leery when I heard that Year Zero was being released so soon.

But no sooner had I finished listening to the 16-track album that all my concerns were tossed out the window. And although I will admit Nine Inch Nails isn't really an "everybody band," I will say they have just released one of the best new albums overall in the past two years. Nine Inch Nails fans rejoice. *Year of Zero* has arrived.

The Arctic Monkeys prove that they're not just temporary

By Brad Lufkin
Writer

Back in 2006, The Arctic Monkeys was the best new band, but that just wasn't enough. Since their debut album (and fastest selling album in history), *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* they have been touring while quickly writing their latest album, *Favourite Worst Nightmare*, which doesn't leave any of the talent they showed on *Whatever* behind.

The Monkeys also have a new member this time around, in Nick O'Malley, the bassist, replacing Andy Nicholson indefinitely. With the new addition, the band has a great opportunity to prove that they are not just another flash in the pan. They're here to prove that they've got what it takes to release another one of the best Brit-Pop albums ever.

The band is experimenting with how far they can go and what they can do, resulting in astonishing growth. They are learning as they go, and unlike many other bands, they're interested in innovation and discovery and not the exterior appearance. Their influenced by bands like The Smiths and The Clash, and present a love of sharp guitar rock.

The album continues where they left off, with loud guitars and an unbelievable rhythm section, going back to basic rock. *Favourite Worst Nightmare* is chock full of fast, loud, and witty rock. The group from Sheffield, England is back with conviction and their sophomore album.

Favourite Worst Nightmare, released April 24, 2007

Nightmare starts with the lead single, "Brianstorm," (not Brainstorm) which is a musical adventure that comes out of the gates fast and never slows down. It starts off the album like "The View From The Afternoon" started out *Whatever*.

Even though it is under three minutes long, it seems much longer. And just when you think it's over, it picks right back up. With catchy lyrics, good riffs, and amazing drumming, "Brianstorm" heads up the album wonderfully.

"D is for Dangerous" soon follows with great vocals with a lot of attitude. It's one of the heaviest tracks of the album, and is very cleverly put together. "Balaclava" shakes things up a bit, with more jittery and kinetic rhythms. About young criminals, "Balaclava" is held together by the first-rate drums.

"Fluorescent Adolescent" is one of the most impressive songs on the entire album, about a young woman who's bored in a steady relationship. It is one of the catchiest songs by the Monkeys ever, it being similar to "Mardy Bum" from *Whatever*. The next slow burner, "Only Ones Who Know" includes amazing vocals.

Alex Turner, the lead vocalist and guitarist, has the talent and flair to convert the plainest of phrases into awesome lyrics. He showcases his lyricism throughout the entire album, but particularly on the slower songs.

The beat that will stick in your head for days is from "Old Yellow Bricks." It is an extremely strong song that, if you were to remove the vocals, a remarkable tune would remain. It fits perfectly into the album.

The final song, "505" confirms that The Monkeys left the best for last. Matt Helders on the drums and the newly added Nick O'Malley keep the song together, as they have for the entire album, proving the new addition worthwhile. "505" is an emotional work of genius, with Turner hoping for his lover to return. The song showcases The Monkeys' growth since the last album.

Favorite Worst Nightmare is the effort of the Monkey's to grow and develop. For the short time that the Monkeys have been around, they have shown that they aren't just an average band. Instead they have strengthened as a band and are even more commanding than before.

The basics from *Whatever* still remain on the disc, however The Arctic Monkeys have heightened their game with *Favourite Worst Nightmare*, and their no-nonsense rock.

CRAZY FOR YOU

spring muscial brings classic story to life

Photos by Zach Hetrick

Above: Phil Thompson (12) and Meg Warner (12) perform in the spring musical "Crazy for You." Thompson plays a young man hoping to make it on his own in show business. Warner is the only girl in a western town, and the object of Thompson's affection. Above right: Cale Royer (9) sings a solo. Right: A wigged-out Mike Peck (12) and a gaggle of girls during a scene. Below: Seniors Thompson and Allison Douglas strike a pose during a musical number. Below right: Kevin Nowak (12) and Laura Summers (12) make an entrance near the beginning of Act 2. Bottom left: Meg Warner and a chorus perform a seductive number. Bottom right: a chorus number late in the performance.

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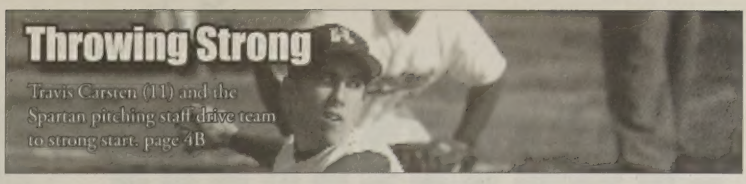
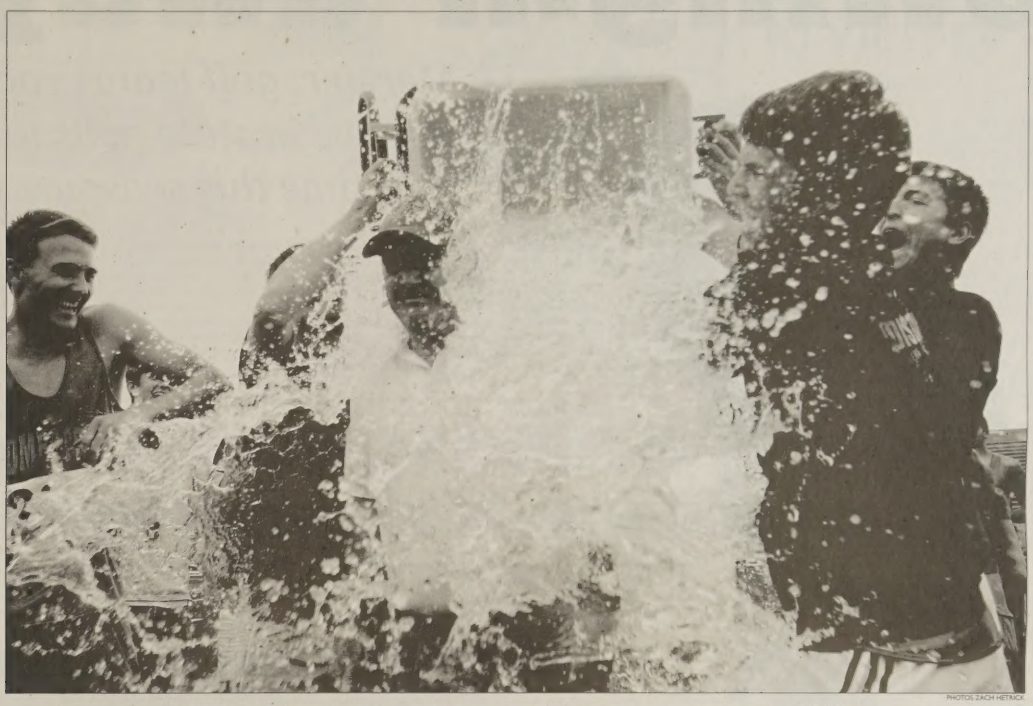
Sports



Throwing Strong

Travis Carsten (11) and the Spartan pitching staff drive team to strong start. page 4B

Friday, May 11, 2007



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

CHAMPS

Beutler leads girls to conference title, signs with Bethel to run track next year

By Erin Quinn
Writer

Six years into her track career, Kati Beutler (12) has a routine down by now, not that that makes it any easier: check in at the long jump pit, scurry over to the 100-meter start line just in time to dash to the finish, recover with mere seconds to spare before she is called upon to run her portion of the 4 x 100 relay, and stay loose until the 200-meter dash near the end of the meet. Oh, and hurry off to get her jumps in whenever she gets the chance.

"It gets really tough when you have trials and finals for the 100, trials and finals for the long jump, trials and finals for the 200, with the 4 x 100 in the mix," Beutler said, referring to her agenda at a large invitational meet. "I never sit down."

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Kati Beutler (12) sprints to the finish.

On Wednesday night, Beutler led her team to victory in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) with second-place finishes in the 200, 100, and long jump, and first in 4x100 relay.

"I personally did very well. I almost beat Leah [Eber] in the 100, I PRd in 200, and came really close to a PR in the long jump, so I was very happy overall," Beutler said.

Beutler was happy with the team's performance.

"I definitely think the team pulled through tonight. We did much better than we thought we would. We thought it was gonna be close, and we pretty much killed them," Beutler said.

The team will take to the track again next week in sectional competition.

Beutler reiterated that track and field is a grueling, and at times, thankless sport.

"Running is a sport about your own satisfaction," Beutler said.

For the past three years, she earned First Team All-Conference Honors for the 4 x 100 meter relay. In addition to being on the winning relay from her freshman to junior years, Beutler earned "a handful of" Second Team All-Conference Honors in her other three events over the course of her tenure. She currently holds the school record in the long jump, having posted a jump of 17' 8" this season.

Beutler is quick to compliment her fellow teammates. Beutler believes that the people around her have helped her achieve all that she has, especially Katie Veith (12), her friendly rival since middle school, Terraysha Gordon (9), the newcomer on the high school scene who pushed her in every race and workout, Hannah Weide ('05), who taught her that it was okay to Be herself as long as she got the job done, her coach, Andrea Baker, who helped her reach her goals, and her family, who supported her.

Beutler says she is unaffected by most outside influences, and has managed to maintain the same attitude from her first high school season to her last.

"I usually don't pay attention to standings or anything. I just run my hardest and hope that I have enough in me to win. I just do my best, which hasn't changed because I'm a senior. I'm less nervous before races than I was my freshman year, which is mostly because I am more used to racing by now," Beutler said.

Unlike most high school athletes, however, she is comforted by her commitment to continue her sport in the future. Beutler decided to continue her academic and track careers at Bethel College, and solidified the agreement by signing with the school on April 17.

"It was a toss-up between Taylor and Bethel. I mean, I had no clue. I basically had to flip a coin. They are similar schools, but Bethel has better track, so I chose to go there," Beutler said.

In her final high school season, Beutler was ranked 10th in the state in both the long jump and the 100-meter dash prior to the championship part of her season. Despite the high rankings, Beutler has flown under the radar throughout most of this season.

"It bothers my parents a little that I don't get much publicity," Beutler said. "But I'm running in college, and that's all that I care about. My parents are happy with that, my grandparents are happy with that, I am happy with that."

Boys take second-straight title, Hall sets conference pole vault record at 16'2"

Hunter Hall (12) vaults during the NHC meet Wednesday. Hall set a meet record.

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

"Spartans, what is your profession?"

The popular line from the film "300" became a rallying cry for the boys track team this season, which began its post-season run with a come-from-behind win in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) on Wednesday. The win was the second straight for the Spartans, who scored over 100 points in the meet to repeat as champions.

> *"When that all is said and done, we've proven that we had enough personal victories to be victorious."*
>
> **Andrew Schroeder (12)**
> Varsity track runner

The NHC meet was originally scheduled for Tuesday, but lightning forced officials to postpone the meet after a few of the pre-lims. Brian Graham (11), who ran the open 800, said the delay affected his and others' performances.

"I would have liked to have done better, but with the whole delay yesterday, it kind of threw us off a little bit," Graham said.

Nationally-ranked pole vaulter Hunter Hall (12) set a meet record by jumping 16'2". The previous record was 16'1". NHC was also the first time Hall participated in the 200. He made it out of pre-lims and ran in Wednesday's finals, placing fourth.

"It's cool to hold the record. Basically, I vaulted to win the meet, and then I tried to do well in the other events I ran in," Hall said.

As a team, the athletes seemed content about the overall performance but said they can still improve as sectionals loom.

"You know a track meet is a series of ups and downs; we had both personal triumphs and personal defeats. But when that all is said and done, we've proven that we had enough personal victories to be victorious," Andrew Schroeder (12) said.

"Actually, as a team I don't think this was our best performance. During the first half of the meet we had a lot of people that could have done a lot better but they did as well as they needed to in order to get the win," Evan Hanley (10), who placed third and sixth in the 3200-meter run and 1600-meter run, respectively, said.

Schroeder said he was especially impressed with the way several underclassmen stepped up and won key points.

"Joel Slayter (10) and Brent Drake (9) placed really high, second and third, in the high jump. For underclassmen to perform well in this is a tribute to their personal integrity and their fortitude," Schroeder said. "Dan Haught (10) was great stepping up and getting first in the 200 as a sophomore, and the same for Rio Magaña (9) in the 4 x 400 and the open 400."

Other results from Wednesday's NHC meet included Mike Townsend (11) and Graham getting fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 800. Ross Heckber (11) got third in the 300 hurdles, and the 4x100 team also got third. In the field events, Nick Edwards (11) placed eighth. Townsend also placed fourth in the 1600-meter run, followed by Hanley in sixth.

The boys track team will continue their run next week in the sectional championship.

Swingin' away

Mercier, golf team crack top five in state polls for first time this season

By Yogesh Jonna
Writer

The boys varsity golf team bettered their state ranking to a season-best fifth, after winning the Wawasee Invitational. The team still trails Carmel, Avon, Floyd Central, and Plainfield in the overall rankings but is looking to continue climbing the poll.

Following the Wawasse Invitational on April 28, the team had matches against Bellmont and Huntington North, and also hosted the Homestead Invitational last Thursday. The boys defeated Huntington North and placed second at the Homestead Invitational, held last Saturday, May 7. The golf team placed second with 319 strokes on eighteen holes, four strokes behind Goshen's 315.

The varsity team had previously beaten Goshen by six strokes at the Wawasee Invitational. The team was led by Erich Johnston (12) with a 73, followed by Al Jennings (9), Michael Mercier (11), Grant Sawyers (10), and Nick Arnold (11), who scored 80, 82, 84, and 86, respectively.

One member on the blue (j.v.) team outstroked four of the five golfers at the Homestead Invite. Matt Wilson (11) shot a 78, better than Jennings, Mercier, Sawyers, and Arnold.

"I thought I did well, but I could always do better. I had a few bad holes, but overall I was satisfied. I was disappointed that the score did not count for varsity, because we would have won had it counted for varsity," Wilson said.

Matt was ranked fifth on last year's varsity golf team that went to regionals but failed to continue on the semi-state. Matt works hard to continue playing well in order to make the varsity team by the start of conference play.

"I have been playing golf since I was nine years old. A few years ago I realized I had some potential, and I started to take the sport seriously," Wilson said.

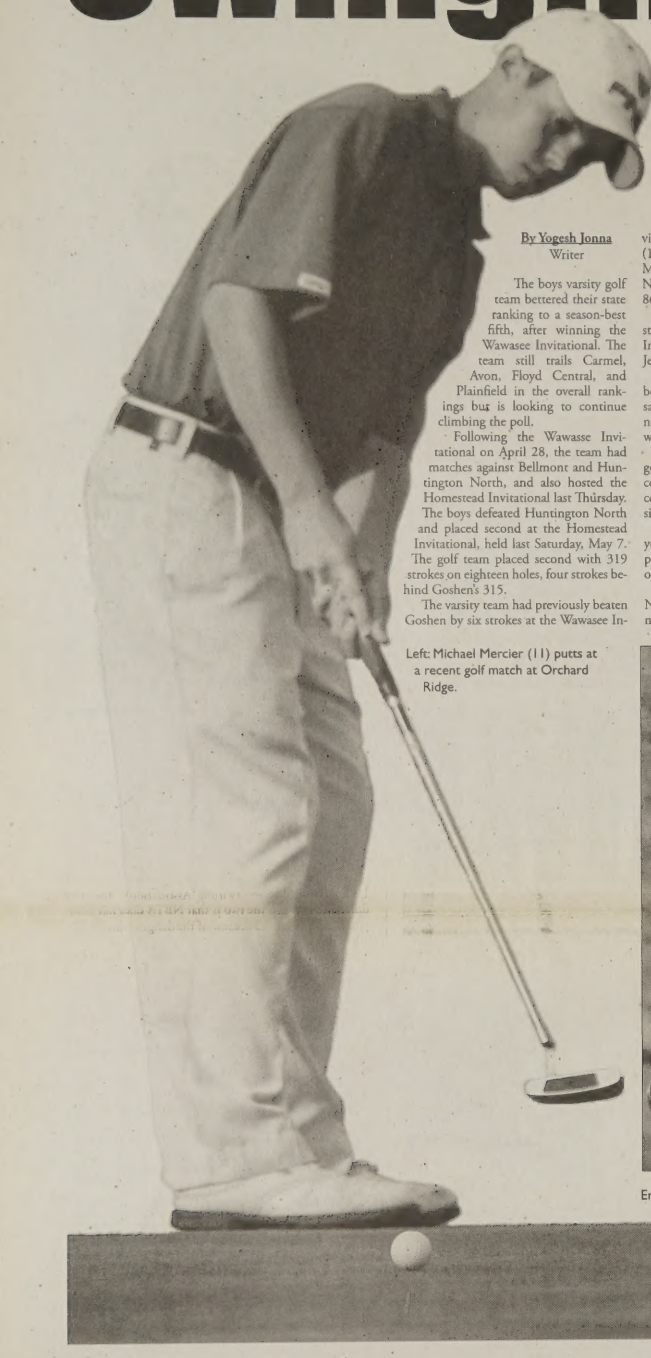
During the match against Huntington North, the team collectively scored 154 on nine holes. Leading scorers were Johnston and Jennings, hitting 33 and 36, respectively, on the nine-hole course.

They were followed by Arnold, Sawyers, and Mercier, hitting 41, 44, and 46. The golf team beat Huntington North 154 to 169. At the Wawasee Invitational, boys collectively scored 302 on 18 holes, defeating Northridge by one stroke.

Mercier is currently fourth out of the five varsity spots. He played on varsity his sophomore year, and was on the golf team as a freshman as well. The last two years has given him experience to improve his game and as an upperclassman show leadership this year to other members of the team.

"I started playing when I was five, so I have been playing for 13 years. I started at a young age, and played several tournaments outside of the Homestead golf team," Mercier said.

The varsity golf team played a dual match against East Noble on Thursday. They came into the game undefeated except for a second place finish at the Homestead Invitational. The team hopes the experience they've gained this year will prepare them to make a deeper postseason run than last year.



Left: Michael Mercier (11) putts at a recent golf match at Orchard Ridge.

PHOTOS ZACH METRICK

Erich Johnston (12) keeps his eye on the ball after a powerful drive at Orchard Ridge.

Stepping up to the plate

Wilson leads softball team with three home runs, .477 batting average

By Laura Summers
Writer

With fourteen games under their belt, the Lady Spartans varsity softball team has welcomed several positive surprises. Most surprisingly this season has been the several underclassmen that have impressed the entire team. One of the brightest stars has been Nikki Wilson (10), both offensively and defensively.

Wilson has been on the varsity softball team since her freshmen year.

The competition has always been fierce for earning a spot on this team, so the fact that she made varsity from the start is an impressive accomplishment. This year, as only a sophomore, she is the team's starting catcher.

While Wilson has done some great defensive work this season, her best work has been at the plate. So far she has had 19 hits, six of which have been doubles.

More impressively, Wilson has already hit three home runs, already more than any Lady Spartan hit last season. Her season batting average is also .477, good for tops on the team and also one of the best in the area.

The conference softball schedule has always been tough competition. Teams like Huntington North and DeKalb have proven to be the Lady Spartans' strongest rivals. However, Wilson has still been able to maintain her success, with a conference batting average of .400, showing she can maintain consistency even against difficult opponents.

Wilson is very pleased with how well the girls have been playing thus far.

"This season is going as planned. Our defense started badly because of rainouts, but our batting made up for it," Wilson said.

> *"I think we will have a good run in sectionals, but we can't have as many errors as we did against Huntington North."*
>
> **Nikki Wilson (10)**
> Softball Player

When asked of her accomplishments, Wilson has always been modest. However, her teammates were quick to speak highly of her talents.

"Nikki is a great player. She has developed a lot since her freshmen year, both physically and mentally," Brittany Hamrick (12), starting shortstop for the Lady Spartans, said of her teammate.

"She's a hard worker who brings a lot of energy and confidence to the team. Her abilities to perform in clutch situations has improved our team as a whole," starting third baseman Becky Price (11) said.

With several seniors choosing not to try out this year, the team is lucky to have so many underclassmen stepping up.

Along with Wilson, pitcher Jacqui Matheis (10), second baseman Melissa Harber (10), and outfielder Mallory Harber (10) all said they've been happy with their personal progress and that of the team.

Their most recent loss was against DeKalb on May 2, where the Lady Spartans fell 2-1. However, the girls won their game on April 30 against Bellmont 4-1, and on May 3, they picked up another win against the Lady Saints from Bishop Dwenger.

Tuesday, the Lady Spartans softball team handled South Side 13-0. Pitcher Emma Dafforn (10) threw a two-hit shutout, while Meredith Elbrecht (11) hit a long home run to start the scoring.

The team will face several opponents in the upcoming Warsaw Tournament to be held on May 12. Then, they will play Elmhurst May 15.

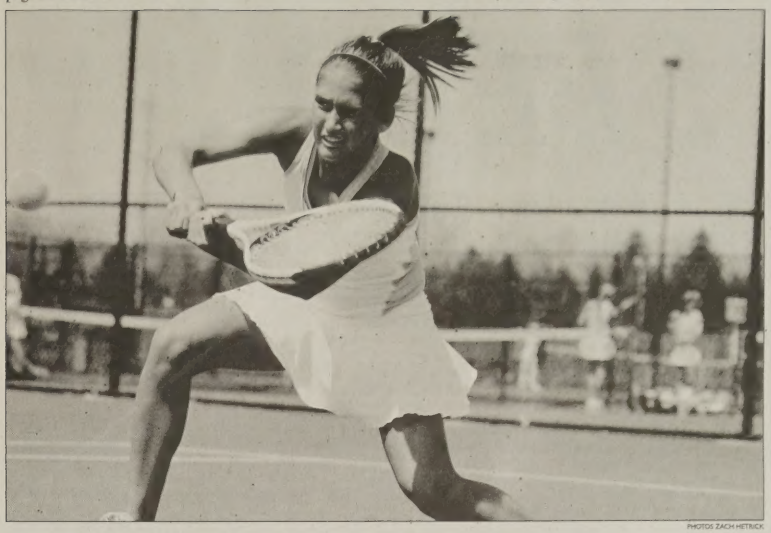
While the softball team has usually had trouble in post-season play, Wilson has high hopes for her team this year.

"I expect the team to win conference," Wilson said. "I think we will have a good run in sectionals, but we can't have as many errors as we did against Huntington North."

REMAINING SCHEDULE

May 12	Warsaw Tourn.
May 15	Elmhurst
May 16	Snider
May 22	Sectionals
May 23	Sectionals
May 25	Sectionals
June 2	Regionals
June 8	State
June 9	State

*State will be played at Carmel High School



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Theresa Sciole (10) returns an opponent's shot during a recent match. Sciole was partnered with Suzie Reecer for the match.

Doubles players still waiting for finalized roster to be announced

Lack of practice time has drawn out process longer than expected

By Kara Busse
Writer

In doubles tennis, everything is heightened. With twice the number of people on the court, it is imperative the two communicate and work effectively together. As opposed to singles play, doubles requires lower shots, more volleys, and accurate first serves. Skills like poaching, the art of running across the court in front of your partner to put away your opponent's shot, are also necessary to be a successful doubles player.

This year's Lady Spartan doubles players are still waiting for a finalized roster to be set. After losing several key doubles players to graduation last season, most notably the tandem of Erin Wright and Abby Mechmut, the remaining girls were forced to shuffle partners to accommodate the changes.

Due to weather issues, the girls have not had much time to practice and get comfortable with each other, so Coach Jim Shull is still trying out different combinations and expects to announce a finalized roster soon.

"We and our partners are working and planning what to do better in every game even though we don't have set partners yet."

Tiffany Schendel (10)
Doubles Player

Players say the weather impacted the doubles players more so than the singles players because the teamwork and camaraderie necessary in doubles play requires time and practice.

"We haven't had too much time thanks to the weather to work on playing with our partners," Tiffany Schendel (10) said.

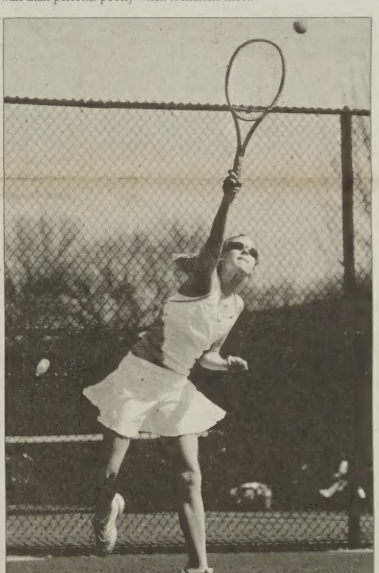
Lately, the players playing along with others during double matches have been Schendel, Theresa Sciole (10), Suzie Reecer (9), and Sarah Antrobus (11). The girls pairing up to play doubles this year are fairly young, but say they are handling the pressures and games pretty well.

"I have played doubles at every varsity match, except once, when I played number three singles because another girl on our team was out sick," Schendel said.

The girls have been trying new partner combinations at different matches to see who they feel most comfortable with. Likewise, Shull has been grading each partner combination on both their individual and overall performance at each meet.

"At the beginning of the season, Antrobus and I played together. That partnership worked well for a couple of games, but [two weeks ago] Coach Shull put Suzie Reecer and I together. I think the two of us did really well too," Schendel said. "We and our partners are working and planning what to do better in every game even though we don't have set partners yet."

Within the girls tennis team, a team ranked fourth in the state, the gelling of two teammates playing doubles is imperative to the game. Without trust and commitment coming from both players, some Lady Spartans said a poor performance or even defeat is "inevitable." Though some of the girls admitted they are somewhat frustrated with the delay in getting lineups set, they all conceded they would rather wait than perform poorly when it matters most.



Sarah Antrobus (11) jumps to return the ball.

Sophomore 'twirls' way to victory

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

Hailey Higginbotham (10) is no stranger to sibling rivalry. When she was younger, Higginbotham and her sister constantly competed over everything. But for Higginbotham, it seemed like her older sister was always a step ahead, in karate, gymnastics, ballet, and tap. Higginbotham admits she became very frustrated and pleaded with her mother to find an activity she could do that her sister could not. Her mother never got a chance to offer any advice.

One day when Higginbotham was at the YMCA, she walked off while her mom was at the front counter. While roaming around, she looked into one of the racquetball rooms and noticed a girl about fifteen twirling with her coach.

"I immediately ran over to my mom and told her that's what I wanted to do," Higginbotham said.

Her mom ended up talking to the coach, Wynola DeMarco, and set up lessons for her daughter to begin twirling, without her sister. Higginbotham says she struggled with the difficult sport at first.

"I wanted to quit after the first month because twirling is so hard. I was really terrified of tossing the baton and trying to catch it," Higginbotham said.

Higginbotham stuck with twirling, even though it was difficult.

For the first two years, her mom made her wear a bike helmet so she wouldn't be as afraid. Higginbotham later joined The Inspirations, a twirling team located in her old town in Kansas. She competed with the team for nine years, but had to stop when her dad was transferred to Fort Wayne.

"It's nearly impossible to be good at twirling without taking dance classes because you need so much strength, and still need to be graceful," Higginbotham said.

Higginbotham said that during those nine years of competition, practicing with The Inspirations took up the majority of her time. Higginbotham's typical day, even with school thrown in the mix, was dominated by twirling practice. She began by waking up and doing stretching exercises. Next, she moved to her basement and did a few roll sections, then went to school. After school, she stayed after and practiced for two to three hours.

After twirling practice she ate dinner on the way to dance practice for another two to three hours. She then went home, did her homework, went to bed, and did the same thing the next day. She practiced 18 to 21 hours a week and took dance lessons ten to twelve hours a week.

Higginbotham mainly competed in the NBTA (National Baton Twirling Association), but there is also the USTA (United States Twirling Association). The only difference between the two is that NBTA does not allow you to do gymnastics because of the danger, while USTA allows gymnastics.

While at the NBTA competition, there are four different levels. People who just start twirling are considered to be in the Novice division. Once a twirler has won three times, they then move to Beginner. After eight more wins, the twirler is placed in Intermediate. The final level is Advanced, which takes place after fifteen wins. By age six, Higginbotham was already taking part in the Advanced division.

In twirling, there are three types of routines. First is modeling, which means the twirler has to make a specific pattern on the floor while still looking graceful. After modeling is strut.

In strut, the twirler has to make an X on the ground and is not allowed to let the baton out of their hand. The final routine is solo, which is Higginbotham's personal favorite.

"Solo is when you toss the baton, have it roll around on your body, and do a whole bunch of neat tricks," Higginbotham said.

All of Higginbotham's devotion to twirling paid off in the long run. She was eventually named the World Open 2-Baton Champion at Nationals. Though Higginbotham no longer competes competitively, she still twirls as a hobby.

"Twirling is different than most sports. You don't just twirl," Higginbotham said. "If you want to win, your life is twirling."

Athletic trainer works to heal student injuries

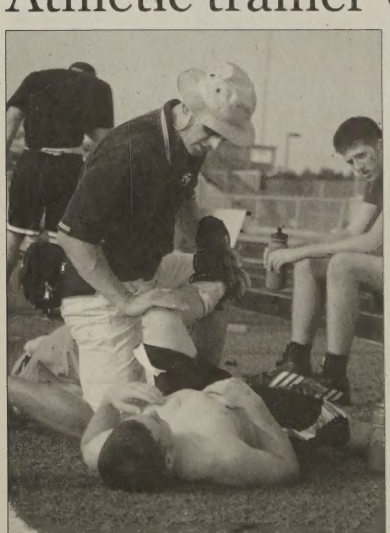


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Athletic trainer Todd Jenkins works on Josh Hosler's (11) leg during summer football practices while Jon Lehman (12) waits.

By Nick Arnold
Writer

On some days, the most important member of any Spartan athletic team doesn't strap on cleats, swing a bat, run suicides, or even hold a whistle. When a key athlete goes down with an injury, he doesn't need a coach to yell at him in practice; he needs someone to be there with athletic tape, an ice pack, and crucial advice.

Such is the role of athletic trainer Todd Jenkins.

Spartan athletes are fortunate to have a medical professional available whose responsibility involves the safety and health of the school's student athletes. As a trainer, Jenkins is able to fill a vital niche when it comes to the medical care of student athletes. His assistance is especially crucial for those students whose injuries need immediate attention.

Jenkins said the job of an athletic trainer is really a mix of two professions.

"It is hard to define exactly what an athletic trainer does," Jenkins said. "An athletic trainer is a mix between an EMT and a physical therapist. We have emergency background, but also are familiar with the processes for recovery."

Jenkins is employed by Fort Wayne Orthopedics, but spends almost half of his day at Homestead.

He does not receive any compensation from the school for his work, nor does his employer. However, he continues to provide an indelible service with no personal monetary gain.

"I am responsible for evaluating athletes on their injury, to give them advice on their rehabilitation, and allow them to practice safely," Jenkins said.

Jenkins' interest in athletic training began when he was a student at Manchester College. Running track and cross country at the collegiate level, Jenkins was interested in pursuing some career in medicine.

"We didn't have athletic trainers when I was in high school," Jenkins said. "I started out as a pre-med major, then decided to switch to a degree in athletic training."

An athletic trainer must be licensed through the state of Indiana, in addition to passing an examination.

"The state requires that you have a minimum of a bachelors degree," Jenkins said. "In contrast to a pre-med major, who will spend most of their time doing bookwork, athletic trainers are required to complete a specified amount of hours of hands-on training. In that aspect, athletic training is unique."

"High school athletic trainers specialize in a physically active population," he said. "Unlike physical therapists, who deal with patients of any age, all of our patients are relatively healthy."

Though Jenkins works year round, he confesses that the fall becomes the most hectic time of year.

"I will have fifteen students waiting outside my office almost every day in the fall," he said.

Students come to Jenkins with any type of athletic related injury, from a bruise to a broken bone.

"Injuries are classified as either sprains, strains, or contusions," Jenkins said. "Sprains are related to ligaments, strains to muscles or tendons, and contusions are simple bruises."

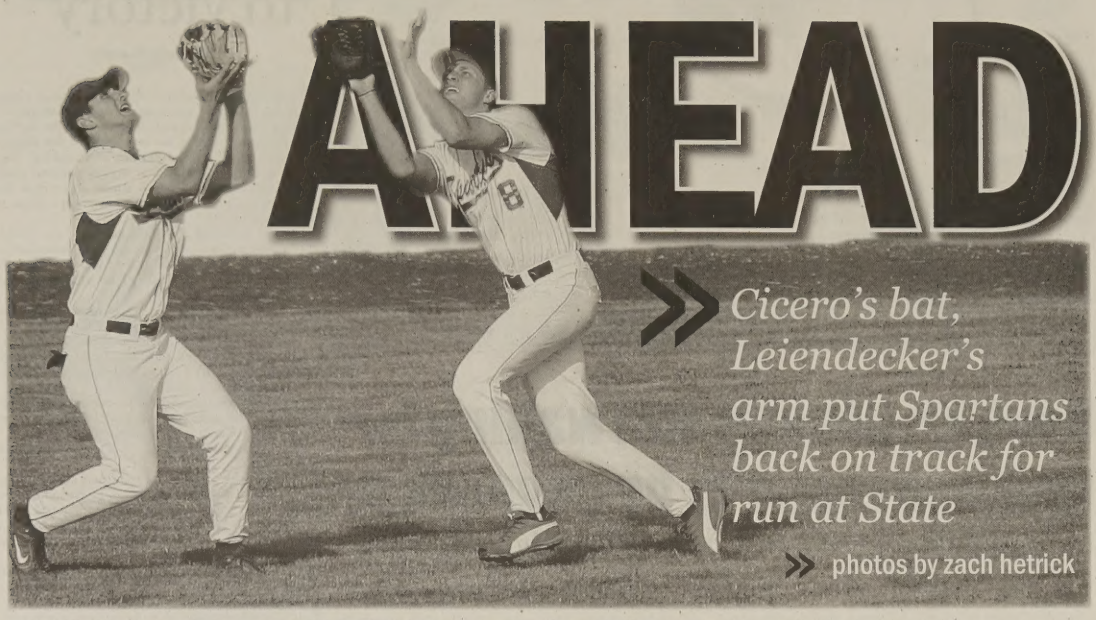
While at Homestead, Jenkins witnesses the effects of student athletes overexerting themselves.

"Today you tend to see a lot of athletes in so many sports," he said. "They overuse different parts of the body and overextend themselves. The effects of exercise are accumulative, so if an athlete is attending multiple practices, they are compounding the negative effects. Exercise is actually a traumatic experience to the body, and without enough time to recover, the body breaks down."

Jenkins admits that occasionally students will come to him over-exaggerating the severity of an injury.

"I am responsible to do an evaluation," Jenkins said. "But if the complaints don't match the severity of the injury, it is pretty obvious. Sometimes a trainer has to serve a psychological role as well. If an athlete is being pushed too hard, by either their parents or coaches, they will look to a trainer for support."

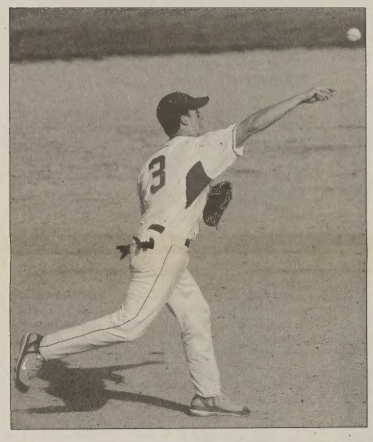
FULL SPEED AHEAD



Cicero's bat, Leiendecker's arm put Spartans back on track for run at State

photos by zach hetrick

Jordan Wise (12) and Kyle Leiendecker (12) work to catch the baseball in the outfield during the game against Bellmont. The two would collide on the play, though neither were injured in the incident.



BASEBALL TEAM LEADERS

Batting: Ryan Cicero
Pitching Wins: Kevin Bultemeier
Home Runs: Ryan Wright
Pitching Strike-Outs: Travis Carsten
Hits: Kyle Leiendecker

Above: Kyle McWilliams (12) throws the ball during a home game. Below Left: Travis Carsten (11) pitches against the Bellmont Braves. Below Center: Josh Kusno (12) slides into home just before the tag from the catcher to score another run for the Spartans. Below Right: Ryan Cicero (12) chases down a tough ground ball during a game against the Bellmont Braves.

By Chris Ray
Writer

The Spartan baseball team's slow start is firmly in the rear-view mirror now, as the team recently ran their record to ten games over the .500 mark, presently sitting with a 13-3 overall record. The players are chalking up two early losses to a lack of continuity and focus, but say spectators shouldn't read too far into them.

"Our team's expectations for this year were to win conference, sectionals, and to make it to the state championship. We definitely feel we have the talent and personnel to make it that far," second basemen Ryan Cicero (12) said.

Although the Spartans have dropped out of the State Top Ten after starting the season ranked fifth, the team still believes they have what it takes to still be playing into the summer. The team has all the elements to make a run in post-season play.

The Spartans definitely do not lack pitching. Behind the steady arms of Travis Carsten (11), Kevin Bultemeier (12), and Kyle Leiendecker (12), the team has a solid core of pitchers that can take the team as far as their arms will allow. Leiendecker, who is considered the ace of the staff as well as an MLB prospect, started the season off slowly, but still has that dominant presence a pitching rotation needs. Bultemeier has been very consistent for the team, posting of record of 3-0. Carsten has been nearly untouchable, racking up 26 strikeouts through May 4, and posting an Earned Run Average (ERA) of 1.17, one of the top ERAs in the area.

Along with great pitching, a great team needs solid hitting. With every player in the lineup a threat to get on base, the Spartans have become lethal at the plate. Ryan Wright (11) leads the team with four home runs on the season, giving the team a threat to go deep every at bat. Other players, such as Leiendecker, Bob Glover (11), and Kyle McWilliams (12) have added home runs during the course of the season. Leiendecker is hitting .529 with 18 hits, including 5 doubles. However, the hottest Spartan from the batter's box has been Cicero, who at one point in the season was batting over .620. Although his average has dropped to a still-stellar .556, his bat has been very valuable to the Spartans' success.

"I believe that I have been so successful at the plate because of the hard work I put in during the off-season and in practice. I just go up to the plate each time and simply relax and just let my natural abilities take over. Most of all, I am having fun, and that is what baseball is all about," Cicero said.

Behind the hitting and pitching of the team, the Spartans have gone undefeated so far in conference play, with two recent wins over DeKalb and Bellmont.

The Spartans went to DeKalb on May 4. Bultemeier was on the mound for the Spartans, allowing only two hits and no runs. On the other hand, the team scored four runs on six hits. Like he has done all season, Cicero went 2 for 4 with a double and two runs scored for the offense. Leiendecker and Wise also added doubles and Glover hit a home run.

Their next conference game came against the Bellmont Braves. The game had to be decided in extra innings, as the Spartans won 4-3 after 14 total innings. Jordan Wise (12) was the winning pitcher for the team, pitching in relief, as he teamed with Carsten to hold the Braves to one run over the last 12 innings. McWilliams and Leiendecker hit doubles for the Spartans and Wright blasted yet another home run. Kyle Sherer (12) drove in the winning run.

The following day, the Spartans took to the field for two against their rivals from across town, the Snider Panthers. The Spartans' long winning streak was snapped in the first game of the doubleheader, 7-3, but Glover's pitching led the way in game two, as the team got back on track with a 4-2 win.

The game on May 8 against Carroll was called after four innings due to rain.

However, during the game, Josh Butcher (12) hit a ground ball to the second baseman. The second baseman's throw to first base was off-line and glanced off the first baseman's glove, striking Butcher in the face.

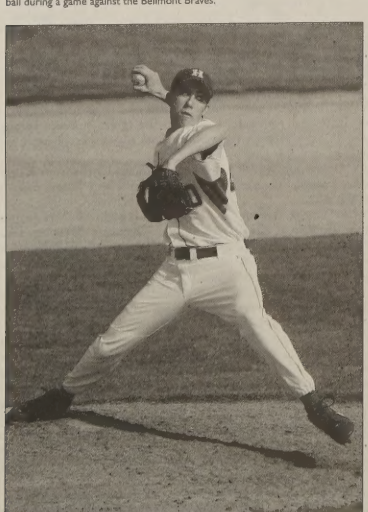
Butcher's nose and cheek bones were broken in the incident, and he will be out for at least a week.

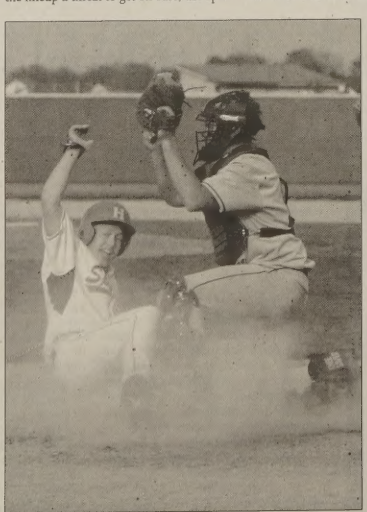
Doug Schroeder (11) will replace him in the starting lineup until Butcher is able to return. When he does return, Butcher will wear a protective mask over his face to prevent further injury.

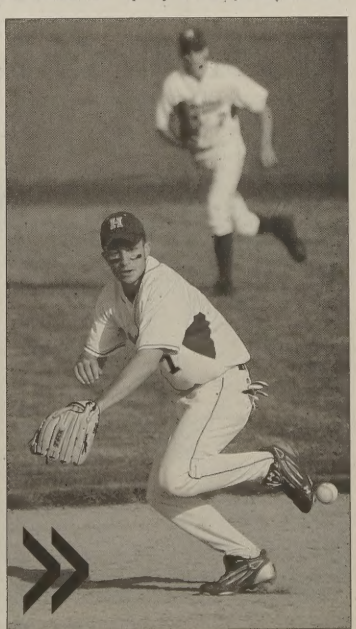
On Thursday, the team played a home game against Norwell, but due to press deadlines scores were not available. Norwell pitcher Jarrod Parker is considered a top MLB prospect and is likely to go in the top ten picks of the upcoming June draft.

MAY HOME GAMES

vs. South Bend Wash.	May 12 @ Noon
vs. New Haven	May 15 @ 5p.m.
vs. Concordia	May 25 @ 6p.m.







"I just go up to the plate each time and simply relax and just let my natural abilities take over. Most of all, I am having fun, and that is what baseball is all about." ryan cicero (12)

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homestead high school
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fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

Moments 2007
For the class of '07, this year was it. For others, these moments may be only the beginning. Photos by Zach Hetrick on page 8A

One more alum: Moake

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

For outgoing principal Dianne Moake, everything means more this spring. The end-of-the-year activities she holds close to her heart—the awards ceremony, prom, and graduation chief among them—have either come to pass or are just days away.

Eight years after taking over as principal, Moake will step down following the graduation ceremony of the class of 2007, making way for Woodside Middle School Principal Rick Smith to take the reigns. But as she has hoped since she offered her resignation a year and a half ago, Moake will remain in the district for the 2007-2008 school year.

Four years ago, when Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) implemented the most recent referendum, they felt they

See Moake on page 2A

CHRISTIAN, SON, MENTOR, DREAMER

Brandon Binns

1989 - 2007

Outside the home where Brandon Binns spent his last years, there sits a Grand Prix meant for him. He never drove it.

But if you're looking for a metaphor for the life that Binns' lived, it isn't in the undriven car outside his home. His life is best represented by the basketball which sits in his garage—well-worn, well-played-with—like the 18-year-old who once dunked with it, soaring through the air in a red T-shirt, headband, and shorts, his hightops flying, too-cool sunglasses focused on the hoop.

But metaphors weren't important to Brandon Binns. Those who knew him best will tell you that God, changing lives, and sports meant something to the young man. That, and learning.

Brandon Binns spent just a short time at this school. When he enrolled two years ago he had no warning of the storm that was to engulf his life, the cancer which would eventually claim him, or of the faith that he would find. But for the first school days in August, 2005, he was, for the briefest of moments, like everyone else. He was a Cowboys' fan who played Playstation, wore a long leather coat, and loved his time in church. He wanted to learn at Homestead, and eventually teach in youth ministry. And, although he is dead now, Brandon Binns' legacy lives.

Sports Dreamer, Youth Minister

Like most boys, when he was young, Binns wanted to be a professional athlete.

"He loved the NBA and the NFL," his uncle and guardian Gene Smith said. "It was a real passion for him."

Brandon was a life-long Cowboy's fan, spent time online at sports web sites, and he often played basketball with his pastor, Jon Willis.

See Binns on page 2A

"Brandon, what's going on?" Willis asked.
"It's the storm pastor," Binns said.
"And where do you think God's at?"
"He's right beside me."

BRIEFS

WEIGHTED GRADES

Counselor Amy Hamilton will formulate a committee to consider weighted grades. Because some schools have switched to a weighted grades system, the committee will formulate a proposal to go to the school board if the committee finds that weighting grades is a necessity. The change could be made fall 2008.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Plans for construction on campus include expanding the cafeteria, improving the signs in front of the main entrance, and completing grounds keeping goals. The $400,000 cafeteria renovation should equip the cafeteria to handle the volume of students through the lunch lines.

SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHER WINS DISTRICT AWARD

Tanya Hack received the district's Teacher of the Year award last week. She was Homestead's nominee. Now Hack will represent SACS in the state Teacher of the Year competition.

WALK-A-THON

On May 18, Private Gary Huber ('05), who was wounded in Iraq, returned to meet students and raise funds for the Fisher House, a "home-away-from-home" for families of patients receiving care at military medical centers. Funds taken by the Walk-a-Thon were donated.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2A, News: News stories ctd.
PAGE 3A, Opinions: Columns
PAGE 4A, Life: Prom recap
PAGE 5A, Life: Profile of Mitchell (12)
PAGE 6A, Life: Summer concerts
PAGE 7A, Life: Moth Smoke review
PAGE 8A, Photo Essay: Moments '07
PAGE 1B, Sports: Spring sports teams enter postseason
PAGE 2B, Sports: Sports stories ctd.
PAGE 3B, Sports: NCAA athletes
PAGE 4B, Sports: Year in review

Schillinger, Csicsko to lead SLC program

By Puja Parikh
Writer

Smaller Learning Communities Project Director, Jerry Schillinger, was recently announced. He joins Barb Csicsko, the SLC Coordinator. Together, Csicsko and Schillinger will devise a plan to extend smaller learning communities into the high school.

PHOTO KARA WALL
Csickso

Part of the project's goals is attaining better professional development for the staff to improve student-teacher relations.

"We want teachers to understand what to do to make students more in tune with the school, administrators, and friends," Schillinger said.

"Our goal is to have every teacher in the building know a student that feels comfortable talking to them... and can reach out to them."

"Some students never see the purpose or joy of coming to school," Csicsko said. "We want students to feel comfortable coming here, every one of our students should be attached to the building."

For students, the plans and goals being talked about may mean several things: students would have to meet in smaller groups with an advisor with a group once or twice a month.

Csicsko worked at IPFW before transferring into the district.

"I saw too many students at IPFW who didn't have a clear focus on what they wanted to do. We want to change that."

Years of Service

Hammel, Furman, Ankenbruck reflect on their years in education, sunny retirement to come

By Karolina Heyduk
Life Editor

In the office Jay Hammel shares with Jim Shull, the two men have pinned up a score sheet tracking chess games, who won them, and where they took place. Today's game is laid out on the counter below, a bishop lying perilously close to a rook. Soon, however, the chessboard will be packed away, the sheet will be taken down, and Hammel's classroom emptied of picture frames and post-its.

A teacher in the district for four decades (longer, in fact, than Homestead has existed), Hammel has seen all the changes there are to see. From the high school's construction to the original environmental center's destructive fire, Hammel's years in the science department have led him to his upcoming retirement. But retirement for the biology teacher doesn't mean he won't stay active.

"You don't retire and just veg, you retire and do stuff you enjoy doing," Hammel said. For Hammel, that means: cleaning his three barns, working on his fence rows working on carpentry on his basement shelves, and traveling with his wife. That, and taking a few well-deserved naps in front of the television.

Hammel received a bachelor's degree from Huntington University and then received his master's degree from the University of St. Francis. Soon his teaching in the district evolved from strictly inside the classroom to venturing into the environment with students every summer. The groups—two each summer—consisted of 15-20 kids who would backpack in the Rockies, take canoe trips, sail off the coast of Maine, and go diving and sailing in the Florida Keys.

"The summer trips that [science teacher] Doug Waldman and I did—those were probably what I would say were my best experiences," Hammel said. "Some of the most lasting friendships with students came out of that."

"Mr. Hammel was an amazing teacher," Stephania Turkette said. "We learned so much, and it was always my favorite class of the day. He told great stories and at least once a day, he managed to get off on some tangent like the pet raccoon he used to have, so class was always fun."

Hammel said he will miss the students and the staff, but hopes to stay in contact with fellow science teachers.

"We intend—some of the older science teach-

See Teachers Retiring on page 2A

JAY HAMMEL
Biology teacher
Years at HHS: 40
Plans: clean his barns, travel with his wife
Quote: "I don't know of a school within 100 miles that I'd rather teach at."

LINDA FURMAN
Media specialist
Years at HHS: 8
Plans: volunteer, work part time, and travel
Quote: "This is the best staff and I will miss them very much."

JOHN ANKENBRUCK
Athletic Director
Years at HHS: 19
Plans: work in sales, golf, time with family
Quote: "We're at a point that any team we put out there in any event is competitive."

Activities send seniors off in style

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

As the senior class approaches their final days of high school, the soon-to-be grads got a well-deserved break for their last full week of school. Senior week is a tradition that this year included a senior skip day, a Cedar Point trip, and a senior activities day (in that order). Senior skip day, (unofficially of course) the Monday after Prom, is a planned day where seniors miss school. While the administration looks the other way, seniors spent last Monday with friends, outdoors, or just sleeping.

"My parents were not too happy about the idea, but I was finally able to convince them [to let me stay home]," Erin Blum (12) said. "I had a sleep over Sunday night and slept in for a late breakfast at IHOP."

Ryan Cicero (12) missed as well. "Skip day was a fun way to carry on the tradition of having a barbecue where family friends could get together," he said.

A trip to Cedar Point was also planned for Tuesday following senior skip day. The day was filled with excitement and roller coasters for the senior class. Molly Rodenbeck (12) said it was the best of high school she's ever had.

Patrick Mullen (12) agreed. "It was so fun to be able to goof around with my friends while I knew the underclassmen were stuck at school." Mullen did sympathize with the few seniors who also had to spend the day in school. Among them was Erin Blum.

"I'm very disappointed with the way they decided to schedule the Cedar Point Trip this year," Blum, who had to stay in school to participate in

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK
Alberto Corona (12) plays "Deal or No Deal."

a track meet, said. "It is unfair to not be able to participate in a trip I've been awaiting for four years just because I am in a sport. It is hard work to make it to the regional track meet, so it is disappointing

See Senior Activities on page 2A

Teachers Retiring, continued from 1A

ers—we're going to make ourselves a Euchre club, husbands and wives, eat and play cards and talk," Hammel said.

He hopes that those who remain in the building next year will take a moment to appreciate what Hammel calls "one of the finest schools in Indiana."

"I don't know of a school within a hundred miles that I would rather teach at," Hammel said. "This is a very quality school, full of quality students, quality staff, and quality parents. That makes teaching relatively easy, when kids come into class and want to learn something."

Closing another chapter for librarian

The IMC contains thousands of books, millions of pages, and uncountable words. But there's only one woman who heads it, dealing out the library resources to teachers and students alike. Next year, someone will replace Linda Furman's, but they won't replace the goals she set when she started as head media specialist eight years ago.

"I've been an English teacher for 23 years and I'd never encountered a librarian that made my job better, and I wanted to reverse that," Furman said. "I wanted to provide for the teacher what they needed and have a lot more contact with the students. I wanted it to be much more than just managing the books and the budget and the material things, because that's all I had experienced as a teacher."

"Mrs. Furman has been extremely supportive of projects not only in Block, but in my history and sociology classes as well," social studies teacher Jim Schmidt said. "Not only in pulling materials and familiarizing students with IMC services, but also ordering materials for the future to make the library a good research facility."

Furman has worked at many other schools before her eight years at Homestead, including several years as an English teacher at Leo, Woodlan, and St. John the Baptist high schools in Fort Wayne. She has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from St. Francis, with a master's in English from Purdue and a master's in library science from Indiana University.

Unlike a teacher, Furman has had only limited contact with the students, getting to know only the few that come into the IMC during every lunch period. Instead, Furman says she will miss the staff most when she leaves this summer.

"It's a large school, lots of students, and I don't get to know the kids because I don't seem them on a daily basis like a teacher," Furman said. "But this school has the highest quantity of finest teachers. This is the best staff and I will miss them very much. They're very supportive, they're detailed teachers."

In the next few years, Furman plans to volunteer, work part time, and travel to places like Tuscany, Alaska, and Costa Rica, hoping to go on an ecology tour that'll take her backpacking and white water rafting.

In a week Furman will leave the walls and shelves of the library. For someone surrounded by so many words, she has few final words for Homestead:

"I'll miss you."

Patches and plaques stay, director leaves

Every morning, John Ankenbruck stands in front of his office. Today he greets a soccer player as she passes, congratulating her on her goal in last night's game.

He looks down the hallway, the athletic photos line the walls, smiling faces stare back from the shelves of awards; soon he'll empty his office of his personal things, leaving only the school's athletic patches—and his 19 years in the department—for next year's director to see.

With a bachelor's in physical education and health from Ball State, and a master's degree in educational administration from Indiana University Purdue University of Ft. Wayne, Ankenbruck has known he would end up in education since his sophomore year in high school.

"My homeroom teacher had us put down on a little three-by-five card what we were planning to do later in life, and I put down that I was going to be a teacher and a coach," Ankenbruck said.

In his years at Homestead, both as an assistant to the athletic director and as director, Ankenbruck has seen his fair share of events, from the growth of the boys and girls swim teams to the establishment of soccer as an Indiana High School Association sport.

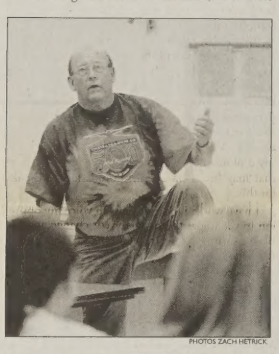
"To me, that was one of my major goals coming in here," Ankenbruck said. "Homestead was always well thought-of and accomplished in athletics, but I think now we're at a point that any team we put out there in any event is competitive. And that's something that I'm proud of because I think it makes everyone feel good about themselves—whether it's a small girl's golf team or a large football team."

Students, too, realize what Ankenbruck has done for the athletic department.

"Although I never really see him much, it's clear as to how much time he puts into each sport, especially with regards to the organizational process," Brandon Saalfrank (11) said. "Hopefully whoever takes over next year does as good of a job as he did."

Retirement for Ankenbruck includes plans to work part time in sales, golf, and spend more time with his family. Next year athletics will continue to play a central part in many students' lives, something that Ankenbruck strove for.

"Most kids when they get done with high school, they'll look back and a lot of things they remember are their extracurricular activities, whether that's sports or the play or band," Ankenbruck said. "I think it's important for us to be able to offer them something that will be an experience that they'll look for as a lifetime experience."



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Above left: Biology teacher Jay Hammel during 7th period. Hammel has taught in the district for four decades, longer than this school has been open. Left: Ankenbruck presents the sectional trophy to the girls tennis team. Ankenbruck has been Athletic Director for 19 years.

Senior Activities, continued from 1A

to be rewarded this way."

Senior activities day took place the following day. The day was planned by student government members Larry Buchanan (12) and Mike Peck (12), who decided to host a senior variety show. The show took place Wednesday morning in the auditorium, following a senior breakfast. Panera Bread, Mocha Lounge, and Krispy Kreme Donuts were served to students as they arrived at school.

Performers included Jon Swain, Holly Thompson, and Mario Baldassari who showcased their talent in five to ten minute acts. Swain played two songs on guitar, Thompson danced, and Baldassari tried his hand at stand up comedy, (for the first time ever.)

"I think the show went really well and was a great way to get the senior class together one last time before graduation," Peck, who performed "Hallelujah" and hosted the event, said. Seniors were also given the chance to play a version of the popular game show "Deal or No Deal." Three randomly chosen students were given a chance at a cash prize of up to $1000. Brian Marks, however, was the only winner to walk away with serious cash, winning over $270.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Mario Baldassari (12) preforms his "awkward moose" routine at the senior variety show.

Moake, continued from 1A

needed to include a position for someone who would analyze data and oversee state reports to make sure all data is accurate. Although money was designated for the position, it went unfilled until recently, when Moake accepted the Director of Student Assessment position.

"This past year, [SACS] has had someone doing part of these things part time, and they've decided that this was meant to be a full-time, year round position. It's really been on the books for three years now," Moake said.

Moake will begin July 1, one day after her duties at the high school are officially ended.

Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay says Moake's greatest accomplishments during her eight-year tenure stem from "her dedication and genuine care and concern for all of the students who pass and have passed through Homestead High School." Bay went on to say Moake's greatest attribute is her "dedication to her job and her students."

Bay also noted Moake's listening skills as something that has helped Bay learn from her boss over the years.

"Mrs. Moake has been a great listener. I have learned so much just by watching her interact with students, staff, parents, and community members," Bay said.

> *"The people have been the most rewarding part of this job. It is probably what I will miss the most."*
>
> **Dianne Moake**
> Principal

Guidance counselor Tom Quigley echoed Bay's belief. He said Moake has been a great example to him in his development as an educator.

"By her example, she has taught me to be more patient and understanding of the views of others," Quigley said.

One thing Bay said she will miss about Moake is her friendship.

"She has been so much more than a boss to many of the teachers and staff here at Homestead. She's easily earned the titles of boss, friend, advisor, mentor, and confidante," Bay said.

Guidance counselor Amy Hamilton agreed with Bay. She says Moake has become a friend as well as a boss.

"One of the reasons I took the job five years ago was to work for Dianne. I knew she was a compassionate, committed educator. Not only was she great to work for but she became an even better friend," Hamilton said.

Bay says Moake's establishment of "a climate for learning, growth, and achievement throughout her years at Homestead" will remain long after her departure.

Quigley pointed to Moake's continued involvement in the school as something the staff and students should remember for years to come.

"Students and faculty will remember her as the Principal who participated," Quigley said. "She was actively involved in almost every school activity for eight years."

Moake insists that participating in everyday activities is part of the job and is necessary for the success of the school.

"I think that part of being able to get things done, is that you have to be in the trenches with the people," Moake said. "They have to know that you care because there are a lot of challenges working here at Homestead, and if they don't feel like I am going to work along side of them, then I don't think we could have gotten things accomplished."

Along those same lines, Moake said, "the climate of caring and mutual respect" she implemented needs to remain because it takes a whole team to accomplish a goal. She also included the open communication between the administration and the students as something that should continue during Smith's tenure.

Moake seemed much more humble about her own accomplishments, saying that while she has overall been happy with her tenure, she has been frustrated by the rapid growth of the district.

"Probably the most frustrating thing that has happened since I've been an administrator is the growth, and that I feel like I've lost some of that personal touch," Moake said. "I'm not able to know as many students and their parents as I used to."

Moake voiced her hopes that projects for students that she has spearheaded, including the dance hallway mural and displays of student artwork, continue during Smith's tenure.

"I hope that the things we've started for students also stay and that this building doesn't become a sterile environment again," Moake said.

Of all the things she will leave behind at the end of June, Moake said the educators and students she has grown to respect and care for will be the hardest thing to let go.

"I've always thought it's been about the students and being advocates for the students," Moake said.

"The people have been the most rewarding part of this job. It is probably what I will miss the most, that I won't have all that direct interaction with them."

Binns, continued from 1A

"Brandon was an athletic individual. We ended up playing a lot of ball together," Willis said. "He wasn't the loud one, but he'd be always right there for the right pass or the right lay up."

"He was always like, 'I'm gonna be in the NBA, or big in the NFL,'" Charlie Raber, a friend, said. "Sports and games were really what filled his spare time. He played a lot of Playstation or you could find him on the Internet."

But in the past few years, (and especially after being diagnosed with cancer in 2005) things changed.

"He wanted to be strong at sports, but as he got older, his heart changed," Willis said. "He wanted to be involved with church and with the Kingdom of God more than anything else. He still played sports, but his desire was gone, and it started turning when he was 13, 14 years of age."

Brandon turned to the Church when he began visiting his aunt and uncle five years ago. He was welcome in their home, but to stay there, they had one requirement.

"When he wanted to come stay with us we said that if he stays with us he'll have to go to church," Smith said. "At one point in time the more that he went, the more that we got involved, and the more he got to hunger after the word of God, and into the activities. Before he was diagnosed Brandon was really getting into youth congresses and conferences. He was really learning a lot."

From occasional visits five years ago, Binns became a fixture in his uncle's home, and eventually he moved in. He became a son to Gene and Donna, who live in Fort Wayne, where Brandon's mother lives

Binns attended Christian Life Tabernacle Church in Huntington, where his uncle is involved in youth leadership. Brandon took an active role in the church, becoming Youth President.

"Since he was Youth President his job was to inspire the youth," Smith said. "He would make phone calls to get things going with local young people, and he tried to befriend them, not to preach. In spite of what everybody says about youth organizations, what he did was to build bridges with the people to try and get them off the streets."

Binns also preached.

"He just made connections with people," Willis said. "He was intriguing. He challenged people to live above their circumstances. We have a lot of kids that come that are foster kids, whose parents are divorced. He taught them that you can live above that, the struggles of life. I think he just had it in him. There was something about Brandon—he was a conqueror—he was going to make it work."

"The Storm"

A few weeks ago, Pastor Willis walked into the hospital room where Brandon was fighting for his life. Binns, weak from chemotherapy, in the final stages of advanced cancer, was in trouble. Willis remembers their conversation vividly.

"Brandon, what's going on?" Willis asked.

"It's the storm pastor," Binns said.

"And where do you think God's at?"

"He's right beside me."

According to Willis, that moment shows who Brandon Binns was, how he viewed his disease, and where he found his strength. His friends and adopted father will tell you the same. It was a battle, and although his body could not outlast cancer, Brandon never gave in.

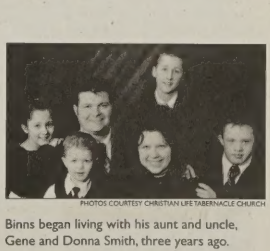
September of 2005 began well enough for Brandon Binns. He was returning to high school, life with his aunt and uncle was beginning, and he was looking forward to college. Yet his years at Homestead were not to be. Two weeks after school began, Brandon was diagnosed with sarcoma.

His uncle told him the news.

"When I told him, he cried and cried. With only a year left, it's hard to tell somebody you love that kind of news. But a week or so later he found his encouragement in God, and he was strong again. And that's something no doctor can do."

"Brandon was a man of incredible faith," Willis said. "He was unwavering in what he knew. No matter how tough it was, he'd get really quiet during those times, but it's as if he understood in his mind what was going on, and was ready for it. He knew his place—he knew where his position was in life. He wanted the faith that he was going to get through all this, but at the same time, if God intended to take him, he was content with that too."

Binns' fight had a profound effect on the youth group.



PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTIAN LIFE TABERNACLE CHURCH

Binns began living with his aunt and uncle, Gene and Donna Smith, three years ago.

"I think most of the youth group looked up to him," Derek Roberts, a friend and fellow churchmember, said. "The way he was so strong and the way he was battling and fighting the cancer these past three years was what really touched most of the youth group, because he had such a great fight against it and didn't give up until the end."

"You always knew that he was battling with it, but he really didn't show it, at least not around the youth group," Raber said.

"His impact was unbelievable," his uncle said. "He inspired doctors and nurses—his strength was just amazing. When he was in the hospital he always had a scripture of encouragement every day that he was there. And that was his whole is attitude. He never had a grudge, never got angry about it. I'm 33 and he inspired me with his faith and his belief."

Binns died two weeks ago in a hospital in Indianapolis. Yet his friends will tell you that what he leaves behind fills more than cardboard boxes and memories. His was a faith that could not be shaken, a love of God and a passion to reach young people, a love of sports, and a voice which rose above his disease to preach and to pray, even in his darkest moments.

page 3A
issue 14 volume 37
homestead high school
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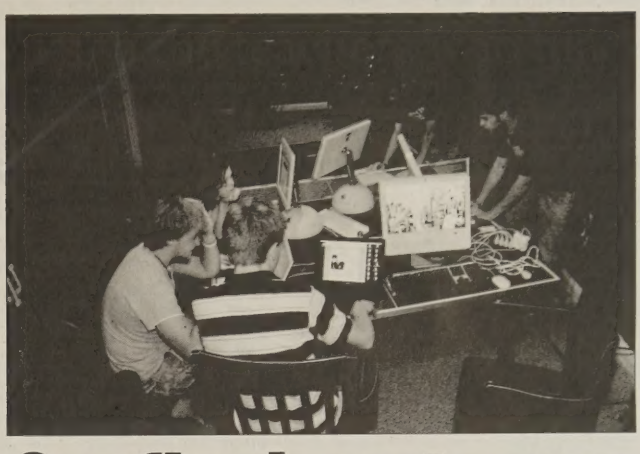
Opinion



Our final paste-ups

Paste-ups is the old fashioned term for production. Sure, we do work at school, but the bulk of the paper is done in a basement on a make-shift table with computers, cords, and cameras carried to and from the pub room.

In the end, though, it's not the time at school we spent gathering news, writing stories, taking photos, or interviewing sources; it's the time we've spent at a make shift computer lab in a basement yelling, screaming, laughing, crying, arguing, producing our newspaper.

Thanks Homestead, for giving us this opportunity. We now pass it on to the next group. We hope you find it as rewarding as we did.

--the board: lb, dk, kh, ah, zh

Letters to the editor: the war in Iraq

Dear Editor,

The war in Iraq is one of America's best moves. The truth is the war is for a cause that not only benefits the Iraqi people but the American people as well. If we do not stop the terrorists now, the world will not be safe for our children or our grandchildren. The mission in Iraq is complete. We have established a government in Iraq, we captured Saddam Hussein, he has been executed, and Iraq has their own army and police force. However, what they do not have is safe country. Not only do the terrorists want to hurt the Iraqi people, they want to turn Iraq back to what it originally was, a dictatorship. If we pull out of Iraq now Iraq and the rest of the Middle East will fall downhill.

The war in Iraq is not easy and the Anti-War protesters don't make it easy. It is not a surprise to find that most Anti-War protesters are actually Democrats. Well, I just looked and your little Democrats lost in the Senate on Wednesday when they voted 67-29 to stop funding in Iraq. They lost, and the war will continue to be funded. Many people have said this and I will say the same thing, shut up! Would you be saying that if Al Gore or John Kerry were in charge? No, you would not; you would be probably supporting the war. Instead of hating Republicans and blaming them, blame the enemy, it's their fault.

In conclusion, we need to stay in Iraq until the job is finished and that day will come very soon because we are the most powerful country in the world full of something that other countries can't always say they have: Pride.

Geoff Ellingwood

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Brian Marks and Maggie Peters. Terrorists are trying to kill us. The terrorists were being supported by Iraq. If you cut off the source, you weaken the enemy. We are stopping terrorists from killing us. Where is the stupidity in that chain of logic?

Iraq is a key supporter of terrorism. Allow me to point out that the 9/11 Commission Report is not only ambiguous, but also contradictory. While Mr. Marks saw only the phrases like no "collaborative operational relationship" between Iraq and al Qaeda, he must have skipped over the parts that justify the War on Terror, statements like "al Qaeda is actively striving to attack the United States and inflict mass casualties." Allow me to cite some more examples of the inconclusiveness and invalidity of his source. The report claims "The Sudanese, to protect their own ties with Iraq, reportedly persuaded Bin Laden to cease this support and arranged for contacts between Iraq and al Qaeda." Yet it later denies that "any ties existed between al Qaeda and Iraq." But when contacts are made, ties exist.

We are defending ourselves, literally and figuratively. 9/11 was unacceptable and we must prevent it from happening ever again. That means bringing justice to those who threaten America and facilitate the same extremist philosophies. Figuratively, we are also threatened. The extent to which we hold to our principles is being tested.

To those who subscribe to the philosophy of only supporting the troops, I ask to analyze how they can claim to support them if they do not support their mission, strategy, goals, tactics, or their actions. The facade of supporting the troops but not the war is used, for two reasons: to comfort their conscience from the guilt of their immoral and contradictory stance and to make their views more moderate to appeal to a wider base.

If you want peace, you're going to have to fight for it. I, too, do not wish to launch a personal attack on either Maggie Peters or Brian Marks, but I will not agree to disagree. This issue is of too great an importance to let vicious attacks on the administration and American principles go unrequited.

Ashley Heath

Letters have been cut due to space constraints.

Kimmel, final words

As I watched Erin Quinn's face transform into some mix of bewilderment and satisfaction, I couldn't help sharing in her joy. Her brilliant silver tiara shimmering by the light of the stage, I could not wait to congratulate her. Apparently,

nor could anyone else.

Erin was quickly surrounded by a gaggle of other prom attendees who congratulated her and posed for a quick picture. I waited my turn, waited until she had made her way through the throngs to the back of the room where I stood standing. Our exchange was brief and perhaps even a little trivial in the large scope of things, but I could tell, even from that brief moment, that this prom night would be etched in her memory for the rest of her life, the tiara kept on her bedside table as a lasting memory of her time at Homestead High School—unless of course her mother accidentally throws it in the garbage again.

This is the type of moment that justifies my four-year tenure in this building. Seeing someone as deserving as Erin Quinn so fittingly crowned makes me realize just how blessed my own life has been the past four years. I have felt the sting of disappointment too many times to count, but I have overcome in ways that I never realized until last Saturday, when I witnessed someone else's accomplishment.

That's the funny thing about humans. We only fully understand the gravity of our achievements—or failures—when we see similar feats accomplished by others. And that is exactly what happened to me as Erin precariously set her new tiara amongst her perfectly styled hair. I was able to respect and accept the legacy I will leave behind when I walk across the Coliseum stage and accept my diploma next weekend, whatever exact legacy that may be. I have Erin's coronation to thank for this.

I have worked for four years to voice my opinion in the hopes that it might stir change and to likewise stir the student body from their apathetic tendencies. If this publication has, in any fashion, stirred even one individual to action, then my time here was worth every moment. I am confident this publication has accomplished that task, that this staff as a collective unit has moved individuals to action. And with that I hold great pride, as does every other student listed in our staff box.

So as Erin will most certainly do, I will celebrate this brief snapshot in time for as long as my memory allows, reveling in the Friday distribution days that kept me striving for more and the changed perspectives that quickly followed, the latter making all worth while, positively speaking that is.

Thanks to the teachers who made us feel human

The first thing I noticed was the laughter. Uninhibited, loud, sincere laughter. The kind you're not supposed to hear in a classroom. But that was definitely what it was.

Two years ago I sat in a French classroom and for the first time, I watched kids genuinely enjoying themselves because of a teacher. Laughing, because the middle-aged man at he front of the room was telling them a story about him, about the time he hit a kid in the head with a shovel, or the monk he knew who walked with chains around the monastery, or the time he took a state bird home and stuck it in the freezer.

Here was a teacher, who really knew his stuff, and was also his students' friend: something that's all too rare.

My French teacher, and some others, are great teachers. In four years here and another ten in

school, I've learned a lot about teachers. There's all kinds. There's the teachers who really know their stuff, there's the teachers who tell great stories, there's the teachers who get you excited about the boring stuff, and then there's teachers who do all of that and more.

And there are all too few who can do them all. Great teachers I've known had one thing in common, however. They treated their students like people, and not like numbers. It's not just learning names, or asking about what we did last weekend. It's getting to know us, getting to care how we feel, and why, and what we dream about.

The great teachers were those who shared themselves—who told about their hernia, or their trip with their family, their wedding anniversary, their broken leg, or their take on last Sunday's Colts game. It's the teachers who read us the funny emails their friends sent (leaving in the dirty parts), or who read us a poem they thought was beautiful, or played "Cat's Cradle" for us on guitar because it was a Friday. It was the teachers who showed us their favorite video clip, or watched ours.

That's not to say those teachers didn't know their stuff, or that we never learned anything. Sure there were times when things were boring, or useless, but the teacher never made it that way. Grades, deadlines, and numbers may have been important, but that all was secondary.

We had a purpose in those classrooms: we were there to learn something, everyday, and enjoying ourselves along the way wasn't such a terrible thing either.

Four years after showing up for my first class here, I've learned a lot. And with some good teachers, and a few great ones, it's been a great ride. For those of you with years left, enjoy them. Find the people who care, and can make you laugh, and stick with them.

To Mr. Fryzel and the other great teachers—thanks,

Austin Hetrick

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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page 4
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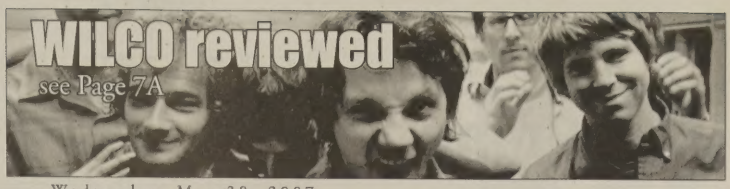
Life



Wednesday, May 30, 2007

PHOTO FOR FAMILY

BPA students go to national event in NYU

By Haley Zimmerman
Writer

Students involved in Business Professionals of America (BPA) competed in the national conference in New York.

"It was great being able to see one of the largest and most active cities in the world, being there was simply a phenomenal experience," Rahul Gupta (11) said. "It seemed like there just wasn't enough time to see everything that we wanted, even in Manhattan."

After competing in the district competition, the top winners advanced to the state competition in Indianapolis and from there moved on to nationals in Midtown Manhattan, New York from May 9 to 13.

"I felt great going on to a national level competition," Gupta said. "It was exciting, being able to compete with the top business students in the country."

Gupta placed seventh out of a group of students from 28 different states in economics and was the first Spartan to place in a judged presentation or essay style category.

"This is my first year doing BPA, and I'll do it again next year," Gupta said. "I did it this year because I was able to do an event with economics and I really like econ here at Homestead."

Other high placing students were Liz Kitto (12) who tested in Fundamental Accounting and Kyle Knezovich (12) who tested in payroll banking. Kitto, who hopes to pursue a career in business, placed in the top 10 students.

> *"It was exciting, being able to compete with the top business students in the country."*
>
> **Rahul Gupta**
> BPA competitor

"I like to work with people and travel and there's a lot of opportunity for that in business," Kitto said. "I like that it's so broad and if I want to do something business-related, I don't have to adhere to one specific area."

Business teacher Gayle Topp and several of this year's senior students formed BPA last year.

"The biggest benefit and issue for forming BPA is that it provided an opportunity for students to take what they were learning in class and use that information to compete against students and prepare them for the workplace," Topp said.

Throughout the year BPA members have been involved in various volunteer activities.

"BPA is not just about the competition, it's also about paying it forward and giving back to the community," Topp said. "We've been involved with the Special Olympics, United Way, and collecting school supplies for children in Iraq."

Students who are not involved with BPA but are interested in business should consider joining the program next year.

"I would recommend [BPA], especially to students who will take or have taken a business class because it gives you a chance to show what you know," Kitto said.

While members this and last year tended to be upperclassmen, underclassmen are encouraged to join as well.

"Since last year there has been a 75% increase in membership… I would like to see more computer students and underclassmen join," Topp said. "To join you need to have taken a business class, economics, or a computer class."

Students enjoyed going to New York for the competition and the opportunity to explore the culture-filled city.

"I liked seeing all the New York sights like the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island," Kitto said. "Even though most of us had events to compete in, we still had time to tour and we definitely didn't run out of things to see."

Historical sites were not the only destinations for the BPA students during their free time.

"Competitions only took up a small part of our time so in our spare time we got into groups of 5 or 6 and went to different places around Manhattan," Gupta said. "I went with some other guys to a taping of Conan O'Brien."

Next year's national conference will be held in Reno, Nevada and BPA students hope to advance to that level again.

"(I most enjoyed) the students confidence and pride in their accomplishments this year and the fact that they worked hard even if they didn't place in the top ten," Topp said.

BOND, JAMES BOND.

Prom "007" slides into to Grand Wayne Center as a success, students enjoy music, decorations, crowning of king and queen

PROM INFO

Location: Grand Wayne center
Ticket price: $20, free for seniors
Prom King: Ryan Wright
Prom Queen: Erin Quinn
Intriguing junior eyes: Adrianna Ballou, Brandon Derck
Ideal senior date: Amanda Clay, Brian Laipple
Seductive smiles: Brittany Neal (11), Ben Walker (11), Kelsey Mrowczynski (12), Joe Salisbury (12)
Total cost: over $14,000

By Ashley Hockney
Writer

A group of students forms a circle, a boy dancing in the middle to the loud music and bright lights. A couple quietly dances to a slow song, forgetting all about their dressy evening wear for three minutes. And after the four hours allowed for prom, students amble into the warm night, the drying flowers and photos the final leftovers from the night.

Prom preparation began early for many girls with morning hair appointments, only to continue throughout the day with makeup appointments with friends in the afternoon and a final mad rush back home to put on the evening's dress for the anticipated night.

"I love getting ready for a dance, it's half the fun," Rachel German (11) said. "Honestly, how often do you get to dress up in formal dresses and heels?"

> *"When I look back on my prom I won't remember most of the songs they played, or how it was decorated, but I will remember the people."*
>
> **Gary Scribner**
> Senior

But simple preparation in front of the mirror wasn't enough; photos with friends and dinner parties was one of the biggest reasons for dressing up. After photos, most students headed out to dinner. Popular places included Park Place, Chops, Biaggi's, and Eddie Merlot's.

"For dinner we went to Catablu," Adam Lill (12) said. "It was delicious and well worth the price."

The dance, hosted at the Grand Wayne Center in downtown Fort Wayne, was funded by student government.

While senior and junior superlatives are a prom tradition, it's not so often that they come true.

"I found it kind of funny that I had the most votes [for senior superlatives] for getting lost on the way there and that I actually did get lost!" Tyler Hoyle (12) said.

Students were greeted by an elegantly decorated banquet hall that captured the 007 theme. A dance floor was located in the center and water and cookies were offered for refreshments.

"The Grand Wayne Center was beautifully decorated and just had a ton of fun dancing with my date and the whole group," Kendra Kinzer (12) said.

A few hours after the dance began the prom court was led on stage and the queen and king were announced: Erin Quinn (11) was voted for queen and Ryan Wright (11) king.

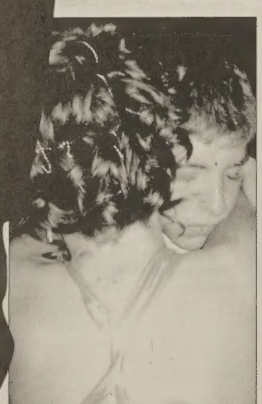
The dance continued with plenty of rap and numerous slow songs. And while juniors have next year to look forward to, seniors walked from the dance and what for most would be their final high school dance.

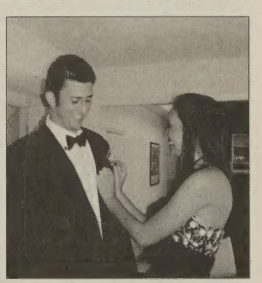
"This was my last prom and I loved every minute of it," Hoyle said.

"The best part about prom was that I was around people who made my prom unforgettable," Gary Scribner (12) said. "When I look back on my prom I won't remember most of the songs they played, or how it was decorated, but I will remember the people."

After-prom, which lasted until 3:00 a.m. and was held in the Auxilary Gym, gave students a chance to indulge in free Mocha Lounge coffee, casino games, moon walks, and an opportunity to make their own music video.

"After prom was really fun…and I will never forget making music videos," Kinzer said.





Top: Keith Couture (12) and Susan Watrous (12) take the meaning of promenade to the max with their Victorian evening wear. Left: Katie Lauer (11) and Brad Zehr (12) dance to a slow song. Right: Francesca Schmidt (11) and Jon Lehman (12) exchange flower before prom.

Global warming a hot topic, many debate human influence

By Phil Aleman
Writer

The debated controversy of whether global warming will be mankind's fatal flaw or is merely a fad in the scientific community is something many have at least pondered, with cries for change being made on network news and activist groups.

Global warming is the noticed increase in the Earth's average near-surface and oceans temperatures in recent years. Many individuals feel that this is due to the suggested greenhouse effect. Gases, such as CO_2 among others, are emitted by humans and natural causes, then float up and build up in the atmosphere.

It has become a hot topic for political debate and celebrity action. Former Vice President Al Gore has made his stances on global warming clear in the Academy Award-winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Last year, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill limiting the emissions.

"We simply must do everything we can in our power to slow down global warming before it is too late," Governor Schwarzenegger said at the signing ceremony. "The science is clear. The global warming debate is over."

However, not everyone is in agreement that the fear of the proposed future global warming supporters publicize is validated.

In an article published by the BBC, Dr. Martin Keeley denounced the phenomenon as being a serious problem.

"Global warming is indeed a scam, perpetrated by scientists with vested interests, but in need of crash courses in geology, logic and the philosophy of science....It provides the media with a new scare story, which has been picked up by the focus groups and turned into the new religion, offering us hell if we don't all change our ways."

Students at Homestead High School have their own views concerning global warming as well.

"It's a total catastrophe and everyone should be doing everything they can to prevent pollution of any kind," Susan Watrous (12) said. "And I think it's even worse that instead of preventing global warming, and doing everything we can to stop it, we're wasting time just trying to prove it."

But not all students share Watrous' views.

"Well, while I'm sure that human factors have definitely had a negative affect on the earth, I think it's a topic that's greatly exaggerated by such people as Al Gore," Will Kioultzopoulos said.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Emma: Thank you, Homestead

By Emma Farnsworth
Writer

It's been an agonizing crawl that's flown by, a romp in the park that's nearly killed me, a boring four years filled with excitement. From AP Composition, I know that high school is a paradox: conflicting ideas that are at once true.

I never did learn the words to the Homestead school song.

I worried too much.

I should've been less afraid of looking dumb, because chances are I did anyway.

When I noticed just how nice and smart and cool people were, I should've told them how I felt. People like it when you notice them.

I was way too concerned with my self (oh, aren't we all?).

As we leave the security of this "penitentiary," I think each member of the senior class has at least one little regret, even if he or she doesn't want to admit it. Maybe it was that you didn't prepare for your biology final, or ask someone to semiformal, or let a friend know that you were worried. Maybe you never tried the spicy chicken sandwich, or told your math teacher how much you appreciated that extra help. Maybe you should've gotten more sleep, taken more risks, paid more attention, let yourself fail, listened more closely, talked in class, or spent less time in front of the mirror.

We screwed some things up, but if we had it to do all over again, we wouldn't. High school is supposed to be about growing up and figuring out who you are. It's supposed to have mistakes. It's gonna be filled with those melodramatic moments and cliché realizations whether you're the quarterback or first clarinet or king of "The Ramp."

No, we wouldn't do it again. For one thing, it would take too long. Yes, now that we know the rules of volleyball, the themes of Hamlet, and how the electoral college works, we are ready to take on the world. We learned how to budget our time, write a halfway decent essay in 45 minutes, find a linear regression equation, and send text messages without looking. We learned to question, accept, hope, and trust. We found the courage to decide for ourselves. We kept some things secret, and shared others. We read, watched, wrote, talked, yelled, played, hugged, connected, tried, cried, and daydreamed. It was scary and it was fun and it was good, bad, and ugly and *high school*. And now it's all over and things are gonna get a lot more complicated.

Next year, my younger sister Lily is going to be a freshman at Homestead. She's on the dance team, so she's already got an instant "group" that I never had. She'll probably be a lot more popular. Even though her "high school experience" will be very different from mine, I hope she appreciates the little things that I loved about Homestead: the small magic of a good lecture, a smile from across the hall, a joke shared in gym class, something crazy said by a favorite teacher (if you want a list of examples, I have them written down in a notebook).

I hope my sister doesn't stress out too much. I hope she has the sense to let seniors cut her in the grab-n-go line. I hope she makes all kinds of friends – it's been said Homestead's a clique-y school, but for the most part, I think everyone's pretty friendly once you get to know them (if all else fails, bring up Grey's Anatomy or how much you hate assignment such-and-such). I hope she doesn't feel lonely too often. Homestead is big – there are people in my graduating class I've never met – but there's so much to get out of it, so many opportunities and chances to learn and try new things if you're willing to take the risk.

I gave a speech when I graduated from Woodside about how we were a great class, and how we were going to accomplish many things at Homestead. It seems like we were so little then, so naïve. But I think we did make our mark – even if most of our achievements weren't recognized with plaques or pictures on the wall. We didn't all get our names litup on the Homestead sign, but someone in this school is going to remember you for what you did. Someone was glad you showed up to class, turned in your paper, talked to her at lunch, or waved him through in the parking lot line to get out. That's a benefit of a big school: there are enough people that you could always find some way to get involved, some little niche to carve out for yourself.

We screwed up sometimes, in ways our middle school minds probably never dreamed of, but in the end, we made it, and we made it our own. Underclassmen, you're gonna make it, too: successes, failures, regrets, and all.

Thank you, Homestead, for being my home for four years. Thank you for being wonderful and boring and lonely and caring all at once. Thank you – all of you, even if I didn't know your name – for teaching me. I liked those moments at Homestead during passing periods or before school, when the hallways are teeming with life. You see those "very serious" freshmen couples making out, laid back seniors lazily sitting on the benches, nerds plotting, blockheads stressing, band members chatting about state, cool people posing and some kids just shuffling to class. It's nice. It reminds me that we're all clueless and crazy. I smile, shake my head, and wish us all good luck.

Stephanie Mitchell's final words

Outgoing and energetic, Mitchell heads to college, still making jokes

By Erin Quinn
Writer

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

She's the one making jokes - a few words and the room is in hysterics and she just sits there, smiling. See her walking down the hallway, her long legs striding, and she'll be singing. Senior Stephanie Mitchell does everything except blend in, and before she leaves for college the Spartana sat down with her to learn a little more about her.

Spartana: What are you favorite memories from your senior year?

Mitchell: Winning NHC Champs for senior year, and having Tiernon run with us. That was so tight to sing our team song. And then sectional champs.

Spartana: How does it feel to know that you are going to walk out of this school where you have spent so much time and start all over?

Mitchell: It feels amazing to be done here. I'm going to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I am going to major in engineering and be on their track team. I'm super excited to be out of here, to meet knew people.

Spartana: What do you plan to do with engineering?

Mitchell: I plan to incorporate engineering and athletics together. I really want to go into Biomedical Engineering, but they don't have that at Western, so I'm going to do mechanical and maybe minor in Biology. I would like to make prosthetic legs and arms and stuff like that for people with disabilities so they can have the chance to play sports like I did. Sports have been my life for my whole life. I want every person to have the chance to feel how I feel when I step on the court or when I step in my little circle to throw the discus or shot, because it's amazing, it's a great feeling.

Spartana: Why did you pick Western Michigan?

Mitchell: I felt at home there, immediately. You know when you walk into a setting and you're like, dang, I could live here. Well, I felt that. The people are really great there, and the track coaches were very nice. I also met the professor in charge of mechanical engineering, and he was super crazy. He seemed really cool.

Spartana: Is there anything specific about the campus that stood out to you?

Mitchell: It's just a cool place – it even has my favorite foods (Taco Bell, Wendy's, and Subway) right there, so I knew it was great. Also, a lot of famous people perform on campus. B.B. King, Clay Aiken, and a bunch of other people are playing there next year.

Spartana: Are you nervous about leaving home and going off on your own?

Mitchell: No I'm not nervous. I'm crazy, they don't know it yet up there, but they'll know it soon. I can't really make a fool of myself with people that I don't know. Either they will like me or not, it doesn't matter to me. I do what I want.

Spartana: Besides sports, what's one of your hidden passions?

Mitchell: Well, music is my life; I love music. I listen to music basically 24/7. When I'm at school and can't actually listen to it, I usually have a song in my head. People probably have heard me sing in the halls all the time, especially when I'm with Berto [Alberto Corona (12)]. I love it, my favorite artists are Mary J. Blige, Luther Vandross, and Usher.

Spartana: You are known for your sense of humor. Do you enjoy making people laugh?

Mitchell: I don't even think I'm funny. People laugh, but I think that they are laughing at me. Whatever I say isn't even that funny. I don't think. I like making people laugh though. It comes naturally, I don't even try half the time it just comes out. I'm just, I don't know, crazy I guess.

Spartana: Is everyone in your family so funny?

Mitchell: Yeah, they are seriously funny. Sometimes I'm like, why did you even say that? But most of the time they are actually funny. Our family events are amazing because all my aunts are crazy, we have great times together because everyone is so chill and cool in my family. We're all blunt, too, so someone can say whatever they want, and it's all right because were family. Most of the time.

Spartana: People see you as funny and outgoing - but tell us about your involvement in No Alcohol, No Drugs (NAND).

Mitchell: I'm involved in NAND, which is an organization that I was selected for freshman year. It's about a group of people trying to figure out different ways for students to have fun on weekends without drugs and alcohol. We host events for people who are teens to go to that don't involve drugs or alcohol, to keep them away from them but yet have a good time.

Spartana: What goes on in NAND?

Mitchell: We meet during fifth period once a month usually, to discuss drug and alcohol problems that we have in Homestead and teens our age. We discuss what kinds of media would be effective to get messages across to teens.

We teamed up with SADD and did a Cosmic Bowling event at Crazy Pins, which was a lot of fun. We also hosted a dodgeball tournament at the Y last fall, which was amazing, it was so much fun.

Spartana: Why is it so hard to get a message to our age group?

Mitchell: Well, a lot of it is that people our age think that they are invincible and that nothing bad can happen to them. It doesn't matter what their story is – we don't think it will ever happen to us so we don't care.

Spartana: We've always wondered…have you ever dunked?

Mitchell: Yes, I have, as a matter of fact. I've dunked on almost nine feet. I've dunked at Elmhurst, where they have these side baskets on the wall. You run with the ball, jump off the wall, and then you dunk. I hang on those things like none other, I was like "yeah, baby, I'm dunking!"

Facebook Forum

Your thoughts from the website we all know and love

THE ISSUE: Cell phones in school

What's the best method: a complete ban on all and every cell phone, or some allowances in passing periods and lunch?

Levi Bollinger

Teachers are not supposed to use their cell phones. I know for a fact that all teachers have been asked to refain from using cell phones. The problem is, who is going to enforce that rule since the teachers are put into place partly to be enforcers?

We all know students use their cell phones during and in between classes. I don't think that the rule was made to abolish the behavior, but instead to discourage it.

Merely having the rule keeps cell phone use on the down low, despite whether or not students obey the rule.

Spencier Lehman

I think during our lunch periods and passing periods students should be allowed to use their cell phones but once class starts they should put them away. If you're in lunch you can't send your friend sitting in math class answers because they can't use their phone during class.

If there was an emergency at home, your parents or family should be able to reach you while you're at school. a lot of people will say, "Well they can contact the school in that case," but most parents do not have Homestead's number memorized.

Think this is the last hot topic of the year? Think again - keep the Controversy Group alive on Facebook for next year.

the Spartana on Facebook.
We'll confirm you, guaranteed.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Greg Kyes Myland reviews the music coming to Indiana, showcasing best talents, giving a song to starry nights

ALL PHOTOS USED UNDER FAIR USE

John Mayer w/ Ben Folds

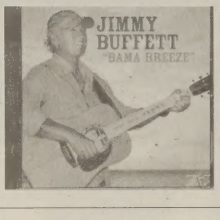
When: Saturday, 6/30
Where: Noblesville, Verizon Wireless Center
Cost: $29.00

John Mayer and the summer season combine to make one great upcoming concert. Mayer is no doubt going all out this summer with his huge U.S. tour that includes nearly fifty shows, stopping in Indianapolis for one night. Ben Folds will be sharing the stage with Mayer and Brett Dennen, comparable to Amos Lee and Jack Johnson, will open the concert. Other nearby concert dates include June 26 in Cincinnati, Chicago on June 28-29, and Nashville on Aug. 3.

Tool

When: Saturday, 6/23
Where: The Coliseum
Cost: $37.50

Tool has a knack for always keeping fans on their toes. In a very surprising increase in tour dates on their 10,000 Days World Tour, Tool has decided to come to Ft. Wayne. It's been seven years since the band has held a tour of this magnitude.



Buffet

When: Tuesday, 7/24
Where: Noblesville, Verizon Wireless Center
Cost: $33.00

Parrot-heads unite! Jimmy Buffet is back for his annual summer tour. Bring your beach-wear and inflatable swimming pools, because as any Buffet fan will say, "It's not just a concert, it's a religion."

OAR

When: Wednesday, 7/25
Where: Indianapolis, The Lawn at White River
Cost: $30.00

With a cult following of the college-type crowd, OAR always manages to put on a very intimate concert no matter how large the venue. With summer here and school over, its no surprise that OAR is putting on a large U.S. tour.

Styx

When: Friday, 6/01
Where: The Embassy
Cost: $37.50

What a way to kick off the summer here in Ft. Wayne. The classic rock band Styx is taking the stage of the historic Embassy Theater in hopes of setting your summer up for a rockin' and rollin' summer.

Dave Matthews Band

When: Friday, 8/17 & Saturday, 8/18
Where: Verizon
Cost: $36.50

Although school may be starting back up, it doesn't mean that the great music is done. Many would in fact say that the best is saved for last.

A little later than usual, Dave and the gang return for their annual trip to Noblesville.

The two-nighter means a lot of music lovers will be camping out overnight.

There is no doubt these will be great concerts. If you were there last year, chances are you'll be back, if you haven't experienced Dave live, find a way to get there - you won't regret it.

Bob Dylan

When: Sunday, 7/15
Where: The Lawn at White River
Cost: $35.00

Undoubtedly, the man is a legend. This will a great concert for multiple generations to enjoy, and its bound to be a good show as long as Bob doesn't die on stage

311

When: Monday, 8/6
Where: The Lawn at White River
Cost: $34.50

It's simple. These guys absolutely love performing. It seems that it is impossible for 311 to just do one show. So far, the number is 40 shows for the 2007 US tour.

Nickelback

When: Friday, 7/20
Where: Verizon
Cost: $23.50

Nickelback fans have something to get excited about. Nickelback has decided to put together a nice little fifteen-show summer tour here in the Midwest and in their home country of Canada.

Wilco

When: Friday, 6/15
Where: Murat
Cost: $32.50

The campaign to "Bring Wilco to Ft. Wayne" seems to have fallen just a bit short. For now at least, Wilco fans will have to make the short drive to Indy to catch this Chicago-based rock band at Murat Theater.

filmreviews by Chris Purdy

28 Weeks Later

Danny Boyle's 2002 surprise hit, *28 Days Later*, was a terrific, refreshing new interpretation of the zombie horror genre that was both highly intelligent and genuinely terrifying. The film took place 28 days after an outbreak of the 'Rage' virus spreads throughout England and kills or infects virtually the entire population. Once bitten, you had 10 to 20 seconds before you became a fast-sprinting, blood-vomiting, rabid animal. Its low budget, "indie" feel, and its intimate focus on a small group of well-developed survivors won over many fans. The movie became an instant cult classic.

Now, five years later, we get a sequel. And it's good. It may appear to be a typical, money-grabbing follow-up, but the writer and director, though they are different this time around, have done everything in their power to make *28 Weeks Later* every bit as scary and smart as the first. It might even be more so on both counts. It tackles some pretty heavy themes and ideas surprisingly well.

It takes place, as the title suggests, 28 weeks after the outbreak, and the population in England is almost zero. A NATO force led by the United States has come in and set up a safe zone, where survivors and foreigners may live and begin a new life while the military cleans up the rest of the country. The story does not follow the characters from the first film, but instead two children, who were away during the catastrophe, and their father, who is haunted by the fact that he left their mother behind.

I won't say how, but when the virus finds its way into the safe zone and breaks out again, the military commander calls a code red: since it is impossible to tell who is infected and who is just running for his life, they begin to kill everyone. The survivors now have to elude the infected as well as the United States army, who start firebombing the city and sniping people in the streets.

This film is more overtly political than the first, with the obvious allegory to the Iraq War, but the plot is a bit more predictable. It also has a much larger budget, and some awesome zombie deaths - one stunt in particular had people talking for day - but the film is not quite as original as the first.

Still, it is one of the best "zombie" films ever, and one of the most satisfying sequels in a very long time. The first film ended with hope, and this one begins with a sense of starting anew, but the tone quickly changes to one of complete helplessness and nihilism. Chaos simply creates more chaos, and when force is used, it only makes it worse.

Starring Robert Carlyle, Rose Byrne, Imogen Poots, dir. Juan Carlos Fresnadillo.

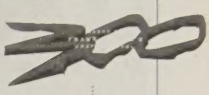
Purdy's Rating: ★★★

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

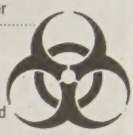
28 Weeks Later follows a group of survivors in a disease-ridden and gun-happy country; the movie opened May 11 and is rated R.

top20

Purdy's top 20 best flicks of the school year (from Aug '06 to May '07)



20. Breach
19. Zodiac
18. The Fountain
17. 300
16. Stranger than Fiction
15. 28 Weeks Later



14. The Prestige
13. Borat!
12. Blood Diamond
11. The Last King of Scotland
10. Children of Men
9. Grindhouse
8. Hot Fuzz

7. The Queen
6. Babel
5. Letters from Iwo Jima
4. The Departed
3. Little Miss Sunshine
2. Pan's Labyrinth
1. Casino Royale

sudoku bookreview

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How to play:
Fill each 3 x 3 box, row, and column with the numbers 1 - 9 without using each number more than once.

Moth Smoke

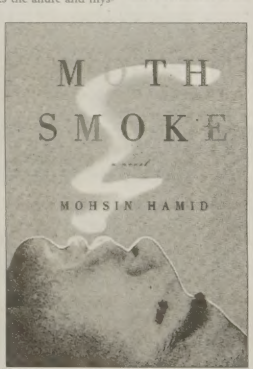
by Mohsin Hamid

Pakistan is more than 2,000 miles from the United States. Many students would have trouble placing it on a map of the world, even though the country also carries the allure and mystique of being featured almost nightly on CNN and FOX because of its pivotal nature in the Middle East. As Westerners, we focus on the threat Pakistan could pose; but Mohsin Hamid in his novel, *Moth Smoke*, brings Pakistan, its class warfare, drug subculture, and nuclear tensions, into sharp relief.

Set in 2000, the novel is the story of Daru Shezad—his fall from middle class grace and into the depths of crime and drugs.

Daru's story is part romance, part journey-novel. Set in Lahore, Pakistan, we find Daru having just been fired from his bank job. Fired for refusing to suck up to another rich snob looking to be treated like royalty—something Daru has never been nor will ever be.

Jobless and spending his savings, Daru enters into a business arrangement with a local dealer, and he's off on a ride which will eventually result in a murder, and Daru's end as well.



Moth Smoke, like Pakistan, is complex. This is a novel with an intricate structure, whose dialogue and approach to narration is chapter-by-chapter different.

At once Hamid places the reader a judge to Daru, at other times we are merely passengers on Daru's wild ride. The book is appropriately filled with smoke—sometimes drug-produced, but more often emotional.

The novel turns on the relationship between Ozi and Daru, the rich and the almost rich, and the lengths to which Daru will go to remain in Ozi's circle make up most of the novel's most gripping scenes. Ozi's wife Mumtaz provides the article of each man's devotion.

Narration and story flow are provided by interesting mix of characters: the lines of class and sex are crossed seamlessly by Mr. Hamid, and his choices when revealing details in an eclectic order serve to hold reader interest and spice up what could otherwise have been a boring storyline.

Clocking in at under 250 pages, the book is a page-turner, and quite easily a one-day read.

The dialogue and internal monologues of even the minor characters makes this novel worth picking up, and, with the world's attention still focused on the Middle East, Moth Smoke is a novel both hip and relevant.

albumreview by Brad Lufkin

Sky Blue Sky

by Wilco

Wilco's first hit it big in 1996 was *Being There* and was the band's second album after Jeff Tweedy first formed Wilco in 1994. He formed the group after the breakup of his previous band, Uncle Tupelo, which heavily influenced *A.M.*, Wilco's first album. After that, they created *Being There* and have continued producing great albums ever since.

Wilco is one of those bands who just always seem to rise from the ashes, overcoming many obstacles; after a record label drop and playing with only two if its original band members, one of who suffered a pain killer addiction, the band somehow constantly surpasses expectations.

Sky Blue Sky is somewhat a continuation of their album *Being There*, and a lead into their newer albums like *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. The album is something completely new for Wilco, yet it maintains their past by reshaping and re-inventing their classic Wilco style.

With the addition of two new members for this studio album, "guitar god" Nels Cline and Pat Sasone, the band manages to create the smoothest sounding Wilco album to date. At the same time, *Sky Blue Sky* is also the most complex and the one that takes the longest to absorb.

"Impossible Germany," one of the best songs on the album, is a jazzy, peaceful, soft-rock ballad. Opening with soft guitars, inviting the piano to join, it continues with a relaxing beat throughout the rest of the song. It really showcases how the addition of guitarist Nels Cline helped. "Impossible Germany" contains the best guitar solos on the entire CD and also shows that the Wilco's lyricism has improved over the years, despite the bumps in the road the band has come across.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Sky Blue Sky, released May 15, 2007

On guitars, Cline dramatically improved the band's live shows, and he had the same effect on *Sky Blue Sky* as well. Cline, who has performed on over 100 CDs from country to pop to experimental genres, shows that he can play rock and soul just as well with Wilco, using his trademark 1959 Fender Jazzmaster.

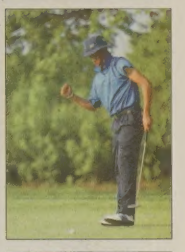
On "Hate It Here," The Eagles' influence rises, like it does throughout the entire album, and also relates back to their album *A Ghost is Born*. It shows off the soul that is apparent in lead singer Jeff Tweedy's voice through the album. The arrangement of the song is nicely organized, allowing keyboardist, Mikäel Jorgensen to show off his talents. All the instruments mesh well.

Similarly to those mixed tape soundtracks made for long road trips to the beach, "Walken" is reminiscent of The Radiators. The groove-jam builds and builds with piano rolls in to one of the more upbeat songs on the album.

Much of *Sky Blue Sky* sounds like 70's rock, being the most guitar-oriented album of Wilco, with great solos by Cline and Tweedy. The influence of The Grateful Dead, The Eagles, The Radiators, and even some Steve Miller on the album is obvious. The CD is a throwback to the classic, easy 70's style rock that everyone loves, or at least should.

"What Light" captures the record in a song better than any other on the album. It really shows how the band has evolved. The delicate music and newfound lyrical talents demonstrate Wilco's more mellow style.

Sky Blue Sky is subdued, there's no denying it. But that doesn't necessarily mean that it will put you to sleep with boredom. The album is full of textures, little touches, and layers that make it great. And it certainly won't cause the band to lose any listeners who expected something more similar to their past records. Those fans have been with Wilco through their entire journey as a band, and all of the ups and downs.



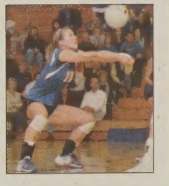
MOMENTS *of* 06-07

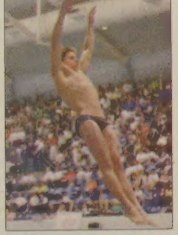
What defines a year in a school? For all of us it's probably something different. Some will remember our teams, or our plays, or our shows. For others, it may be a song, or a friend, or a teacher who brings back 2006 and 2007 best.

What we all know, however, is that we will remember. Whether we want to or not. This is high school: in all its emotional, cliche, boring, living color. Are you likely to define your year in these terms? Or by one of these photographs? Probably not. But they are living reminders, as true and vivid as the memories we've made this year.

For some, there's three more years to look forward to. Three more chances to live it up and bust out. For seniors, this is it.

Photos on this page by Zach Hetrick.





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Sports

A year to remember
Some of this year's most memorable sporting moments are revisited. page 4B

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

FINAL CALL

With postseason upon them, time to peak is now for spring sports teams

PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Erich Johnston (12) watches his drive in a recent match.

Senior leader carries golf team

By Mat Mikesell
Writer

Though no sports team neglects the importance of their performance during the regular season, they all realize that the postseason is without a doubt the most significant time of the year. The boys golf team is no exception to this rule and as such, the team came to the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) tournament with high expectations. Though the team had performed well throughout the regular season, they realized that winning conference would be a critical first step towards a successful postseason.

By a margin of only one stroke, the team was able to win the tournament and maintain the title of NHC Conference champions for the third consecutive year. Coach Rod Parker was named Co-Coach of the Year, while both Erich Johnston (12) and Michael Mercier (11) earned First Team All-Conference Honors.

Mercier, who had not even played varsity the weekend preceding the tournament, posted a 76, second only to Johnston's 75.

"This year was the second time I had played in conference," Mercier said. "So I felt fairly comfortable. There is always a certain amount of pressure that goes along with a tournament like this, but as the round went on I felt looser and more comfortable."

The team was only one stroke out of first place after the first nine holes.

"Coach Parker just kept coming up to us and telling us that it was going to be close," Mercier said. "It wasn't until the round was over that I realized just how close it actually was."

"Coach told me on the sixteenth hole that we were one down after the turn," Johnston said. "He told me if I could par the last three holes then we would more than likely win."

Like Mercier, Johnston conceded that postseason tournaments become more intense than those during the regular season.

"They are definitely more competitive," Johnston said. "There is more at stake and the coaches become a little more intense."

Grant Sawyers (10), turned in the third lowest score on the team with a 77, followed by Matt Wilson (11) and Al Jennings III (9), who shot 83 and 85 respectively.

"I drove the ball well and putted well pretty the entire day," Sawyers said. "The wind wasn't really a factor on the front, but on the back it really kicked up."

Some members of the team also had to deal with Prom, which was hosted the night of the tournament.

"Prom is a little distracting," Johnston said. "But during the round, you don't really think about it at all. You are just focused on golf."

The team had prepared for the tournament, hosted at Cobblestone Golf Course in Kendallville, by playing various practice rounds in the week leading up to the tournament. By

see Golf on page 2B

Postseason push begins

Head Coach Keith Potter to step down following season

PHOTOS: ZACH HETRICK

Bob Glover (11) is congratulated by assistant coach Nick Byall after driving in a 2 run home run in their victory against Huntington North. The team won.

By Lee Farnsworth and Dillon Kimmel
Writer and Executive Editor

The Spartan baseball team has all year relied on senior leadership and raw talent to compile a 22-4 record and a ninth-place ranking in the IHSAA state rankings heading into postseason play.

Now, as the postseason gets underway, the team's preparation comes to a head as they attempt to make a run at the state tournament.

"I think we definitely have the talent to make it to State this year," Ryan Cicero (12) said. "There's no question we have all the personnel to get there. We've had a few ups and downs this year, so I think if we can just keep our confidence up we'll be fine"

Thursday May 16,, the team went up against undefeated Norwell and talented pitcher Jarrod Parker, who is expected to be a first-round pick in the upcoming MLB draft. Homestead was ranked sixth in class 4A coming into the game, which was played at Memorial Stadium in front of 1,500 fans and a spattering of major league scouts, most of which came to watch the Norwell phenom.

Parker, who is now 9-0 on the season, shut out the potent Spartan offense in a 4-0 win for the Knights. Parker threw in the mid-90s throughout the contest.

"[The game] was tough; nobody likes losing," first-baseman Kyle Sherer (12) said. "But we can come away with confidence because we did hit Parker. The score doesn't show how close it was, and after hitting Parker we know that we can match up against any other pitcher in the state."

The Spartans managed three hits off Parker, but their best chance to get on the scoreboard came in the third inning after Cicero was hit by a pitch, Ryan Wright

see Baseball on page 2B

Athletes on to State

Jade Johnson's (10) win propels girls tennis team to 3-2 win over Zionsville in the semi-state. State is this Saturday. page 2B

Kati Beutler (12) and four other Spartans advance to State finals. page 2B

Late Viking heroics stun NHC champion softball team

By Kalyn Jorgensen
Writer

The conference champion softball team was unable to carry the momentum to a sectional victory, as they fell to Huntington North in the semi-finals of the sectional tournament. The loss was especially painful considering the way in which the Lady Spartans gave up the lead in the final inning, giving the Lady Vikings a one-run victory.

Homestead hosted this year's sectional tournament, which started last Tuesday, May 22. The Lady Spartans made it easily through the first round but ran into a tough Huntington North squad, a team that Andrea Layton (11) said prior to the game would "easily be our biggest competition."

The Lady Spartans seemed on their way to an upset win after taking a 1-0 lead over the Vikings that they held through the sixth inning. However, facing the end of their season, the Lady Vikings would wake up from their offensive slumber to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh, then go on to walk off with the semi-final win after another run-scoring hit put the Vikings ahead for the first time in the game.

The rousing 2-1 win put the Vikings in the championship game against Snider, which would be won by the Lady Panthers.

Though the loss was certainly painful, head coach Tom Clagg conceded the team had a difficult road to the sectional title to begin with.

"We got a difficult draw. However, we were up to the challenge," Clagg said.

Four months ago, the notion of NHC champs was far from the minds of the Lady Spartan softball team. After several seasoned veterans decided not to rejoin the team for their senior campaign and injuries began to pile up, the Lady Spartans were doing their best to just keep their heads above water and stay afloat until they could find continuity as a team.

"Like all season long, these girls have made Homestead proud."

Ann Matheis
Softball coach

The team found that continuity, eventually, and with that came an unprecedented NHC crown as well.

The team breezed through the conference season, compiling a 6-1 record against NHC opponents, losing their only matchup to DeKalb.

In order to secure the win in the conference, the Spartans had to defeat Norwell, one of the most competitive teams in the league. They just edged out the Knights in nine innings, 7-6.

The Spartans hosted the Warsaw Tournament on Saturday, May 12. The tournament consisted of Homestead, Peru, Warsaw, and Concordia. In the first round of the tournament, the Spartans beat Peru 5-2.

Warsaw beat Concordia, which meant the Spartans played Warsaw. Warsaw proved to be too much for the tired Lady Spartans to handle, as Warsaw dropped the team 10-1.

Two weeks ago, the Lady Spartans had a rather busy schedule. They played Elmhurst on Tuesday, defeating them 10-4. The team also competed with Leo, winning 10-1. They finished up the week with a win over Garrett last Friday.

Senior night, which took place on Wednesday, May 16, was a big deal for every player. Not only was it the last home game for the seniors, but the game was also against the Snider Panthers. As it seems to be in every major sport, the Panthers have been the Lady Spartans chief rival for years. The Spartans fell down early, fought back, but came up a run short of the Lady Panthers in a 6-5 loss.

Though the team's season ended much more prematurely than the team of coaches would have liked, coach Ann Matheis seemed happy with the way the team represented their school all year long.

"Like all season long, these girls have made Homestead proud, "Matheis said.

NHC champion track teams send five to State

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Dan Haught (10) beats out Norwell's Chandler Hornish to win the 200 meter dash. The boys won the meet, as did the girls.

By Nick Arnold
Writer

In all, five athletes will represent Homestead at the boys and girls State finals on June 2 and 9, respectively after making it out of the regional meet last week. First, however, the teams needed to deal with the sectional meet and the strong field present at the meet.

The boys track team was shooting for a sectional title going into the meet, but winning the title over Wayne would be an even greater feat.

"We definitely knew Wayne would be there to contend for first place." Brandon Saalfrank (11) said. "We thought we could keep up with them."

The Spartans began the meet strong, placing well in key events. As the meet went on though, the team started to slump as Wayne and other teams continued to build momentum. They fell back as far as fourth place, but a rally towards the latter part of the meet helped them finish in second with a score of 114 behind Wayne who scored 131.5.

"We did just enough to salvage a good second place finish," Brian Graham (11) said. "I was hoping to get first."

As a team, the Spartans would not advance into the regional round of the state tournament, but several individuals would advance on. Hunter Hall (12), Andrew Schroeder (11), Rio Magana (11) and Doug Snyder (12) advanced in the 4x400 relay. Hall would also advance in the pole vault and Snyder in the 400. Graham, Michael Townsend (11), Schroeder, and Colin Lyman (10) advanced in the 4x800 relay. In the hurdles events, Ross Heckber (11) advanced in the 300 hurdles and Andy Alvarez (11) advanced in the 110 hurdles. Distance runners Kyle Beutler (10) advanced in the 800 and Evan Hanley (10) advanced in the mile and two-mile events. Three more Spartans would advance in the field events.

"Advancing to regionals for the first time was exciting for me." Beutler said.

The regional meet proved to be even tougher competition for the Spartans. Only two Spartans advanced to State, Hall in the pole vault and Heckber in 300 hurdles.

"I think it's good for Ross to be getting into State now as a junior, so he can get a feel for it a year ahead." Hall said. "It's definitely going to help him out to be all-State his senior year when he can possibly even do it this year."

Hall recorded a height of 15' 6" in the pole vault, placing him third in regionals but well enough to get him into State. As the defending State Champion, Hall believes he can repeat again this year.

The Lady Spartans track team had no problem taking care of their opponents with an easy sectional victory, scoring 144.5 points with second-place Wayne scoring just 82 points. Key wins for the Lady Spartans included Kati Beutler's (12) wins in the long jump and 100 meter dash, Stephanie Mitchell's (12) win in the discus and shot put, and Katie Veith's (12) win in the pole vault.

Like the boys, several girls advanced into the regional round. Carolyn Mutton (9), Chloe Smith (9), Erin Blum (12), and Justine Jost (10) all advanced in the 4x800 relay. Kayla Kirk (11), Terraysha Gordon (9), Kelly Strothmann (11), and Whitney Washington (10) advanced in the 4x400 meter relay. Beutler, Gordon, Washington, and Taylor Harruff (11) advanced in the 4x100 meter relay. Beutler also advanced in the 200 meter dash along with Gordon. Kirk also advanced in the 100 hurdles and high jump. Veith advanced in 100 hurdles also.

Three Lady Spartans would advance to State. those being Veith, Mitchell, and Beutler.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

The girls track team won the NHC meet by 30 points.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Girls tennis players celebrate a victory in the sectional tourney.

3-2 win seals tennis State appearance

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

It wasn't easy, and in fact it was downright scary at times, but in the end the third-ranked girls tennis team found a way to push past ninth-ranked Zionsville to advance to their second-straight State finals appearance.

The Lady Spartans beat Delta in the semi-finals of the Concordia semi-state on Saturday and edged Zionsville 3-2 in the championship game. Number one and two singles players Amy Recht (12) and Jade Johnson (10) and the number two doubles team of Suzie Reecer (9) and Tiffany Schendel (10) won their matches to provide the three points necessary for victory. However, for Johnson and Reecer and Schendel, the wins didn't come easily.

After Recht won the first match of the finals 6-3, 6-0 over Danielle Hansen, Reecer and Schendel fell down 5-2 in their first set a few courts over. However, instead of conceding the final point and playing for the second and third sets, the tandem won five straight points to stun Brittany Ripberger and Claire Mattison of Zionsville and win the first set.

Reecer and Schendel capitalized on the obvious emotional letdown for their opponents to take the second set 6-2 and give the Lady Spartans a second match point.

"It feels really great getting to State in my first time on varsity. It feels really good [as a team] to do it again...I'm looking forward to spending time with the team at State," Schendel said.

Meanwhile, while Reecer and Schendel were putting the finishing touches on their rousing comeback, Johnson seemed vulnerable to letting a seemingly insurmountable lead slip away against Margo Harrington.

Up one set and five points in the second, Johnson allowed Harrington to score five straight points to tie the score. She broke the strings on her racquet and needed to use a borrowed one for part of the second set, and the change seemed to rattle her. However, Johnson said the racquet didn't have as much to do with the lapse in play as did the pressure of the moment.

"I knew I was the point that could decide us going to State, and I had a few nerves," Johnson said in an interview with The Journal Gazette. "But I pulled it out and got my confidence back. [Playing with a new racquet] is just a mental thing. That wasn't part of it."

Schendel said Johnson's match was easily the most important of the day, as it was the swing match in the team scores.

"Jade was the last court to win, and we were all watching," Schendel said. "It was really nerve-wracking, and I couldn't even watch, but we were all really excited."

The semi-state win was the third since 2004 for the Spartans, and next weekend will mark the 14th State appearance in school history.

Only number one singles and doubles teams can place individually at State, but the doubles team must have played together for at least half the season to qualify. However, the number one doubles team of Abby Machmut (11) and Theresa Sciole (10) only played together for four matches total. Therefore, only Recht will have the opportunity to hoist an individual trophy next weekend, something that is well within the recent IPFW commit's reach.

The Lady Spartans will play top-ranked Park Tudor in the semi-finals of the State tournament at North Central this Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Baseball, continued from 1B

(11) singled, and pitcher Leiendecker walked to load the bases. But Parker would tally one of his nine strikeouts a few pitches later to get out of the jam. Just two Spartans would reach base the rest of the contest.

The Knights capitalized off of Leiendecker's command struggle in the first inning, eventually getting two runs after the IU commit hit the first batter he saw and followed that up with a four-pitch walk to put two men on with nobody out.

"It was also a good learning experience for the better pitching we'll face down the line," Sherer said.

Following the Norwell game, the team had about two weeks before starting sectional play.

The first-round matchups were announced with a week to go, and the Spartans drew South Side in the first round. Prior to the game, the team seemed confident about the game.

"We should be able to take care of South Side without a problem," Cicero said.

Sherer echoed his teammate's confidence.

"South Side should not be a big deal. They've struggled this year, and we feel good about the first round."

With an opening round win, the Spartans would potentially face a much more difficult matchup in the second round. The winner of the Huntington North / Snider game would await the team. Due to press deadlines, scores were not available.

Though they came away victorious in their regular-season game with both teams, the games were hotly contested and either squad will be a challenge in the second-round matchup that would await them.

Heading into postseason play, the baseball team has faced a recent loss against Norwell, but can still draw on a wealth of experience and good play throughout the regular season.

The team is confident in its ability to be successful against any team in the state, and looks forward to a run deep into the playoffs.

Potter to step down following season

This postseason is especially important for head baseball coach Keith Potter, not just this may be his best chance to reach the State finals, but because it will also be the last time he will call the shots from the dugout steps he's called home for 25 years.

> *"I wanted to leave on a positive note. Things are going well for us this year, and they are a good group of kids."*
>
> **Keith Potter**
> Head baseball coach

Potter, 53, informed the Spartan players last Saturday of his intention to step down following the 2007 postseason run that began Monday in the first round of the sectional tournament.

He said he told them "it wasn't a big deal" but he felt the players needed to know of his plans before hand. He did not think the decision would cause any disruption as the team continued into the postseason.

Potter coached for three years in Michigan before coming to Indiana to coach the Spartans. In 25 years, 15 of them as head coach, he has compiled a career record of 278-153 record, easily making him the winningest coach in school history. However, this season has been one of his most successful, as he has led the squad to a 22-4 record and a ninth-place ranking in the 4A IHSAA rankings.

The Spartans opened the postseason on Monday against South Side at 10 a.m. Due to press deadlines, scores were not available. However, pending a victory, the Spartans would have played Huntington North in the finals at 3:00 p.m the same day.

Potter conceded that one of the reasons he strongly considered retirement was the success of this year's team and potential to advance deep into the postseason.

"I wanted to leave on a positive note," Potter said in an interview with The Journal Gazette. "Things are going well for us this year, and they are a good group of kids."

Golf, continued from 1B

becoming familiar with the golf course, the team was in a position to perform well.

Thought the team lost to Leo on Thursday in a three-way match that also included New Haven, they were able to edge out New Haven to compile a perfect regular season record in nine-hole matches. Unlike a normal match, six players were on the varsity roster and the team counted the four lowest scores. The team ended up losing in a tie-break to Leo that used the fifth lowest score to determine the winner.

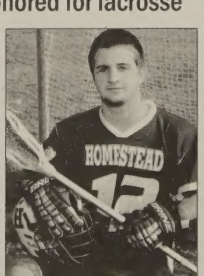
Johnston led the team with a 35 on the Par 35 Cedar Creek Golf Course, while Jennings shot 37. Mercier finished with a 38.

Last Monday, the team defeated Belmont at Orchard Ridge. They were led by Jennings' 38 and followed by Johnston and Arnold, who both shot 41.

The previous Friday, the team was able to beat Carroll in a tie-break. Jennings shot 36, while Johnston and Arnold shot 37, followed by Mercier and Sawyers with 40 at Willow Ridge Golf Course.

Deschner honored for lacrosse

Matt Deschner (12) was recently awarded an Honorable Mention for defensive play on the 2007 All-Star Lacrosse team. Deschner has led the Spartan lacrosse team in virtually every defensive category this season.



Signing off

Senior standouts to join collegiate programs next fall

By Chris Ray and Yogesh Jonna
Writers

College athletics are reserved for the best, for those who have exemplified excellence in their particular sport. For more than a dozen Spartan athletes, next fall begins a new chapter in their lives, a chapter that will include the sport they have excelled at in high school.

Desmond Lewis and Brian Laipple will continue playing together at the next level of athletics, choosing to attend the University of Valparaiso on a football scholarship. The Valpo Crusaders are currently in Division 1-AA and are part of the Pioneer Conference. Lewis, who will play wide receiver, and Laipple, who will play defensive end, will wear the brown and gold for the Crusaders starting next year.

"The thing I am looking forward to most while participating in college athletics is the atmosphere and making new friends who will be on the team," Lewis said.

"I am looking forward to participating in Division I-AA football and becoming friends with the other incoming freshmen as well as the upperclassmen already on the team," Laipple said.

For many athletes, a choice must be made as to what college would be the most beneficial to attend. The college's athletic tradition, the coach's philosophy, the amount of playing time, and the location of a school all have an influence on whether an athlete will play there.

"I chose Valpo because I have the opportunity to get immediate playing time for the Crusaders," Lewis said.

"Valpo was my choice because I have a chance to play some good minutes as a freshmen, but also Valpo offers Engineering as a major, and I am very interested in that," Laipple said.

As a child, many dream of playing sports professionally. They dream of playing in the NBA, NFL, or whatever sport they are into and dream of playing for their favorite professional. However, not everyone can play professionally. Most of the time, high school athletics is the last time people play sports competitively. When one is able to play in college, their athletic careers often end after they graduate. Many choose to focus on what their job will be after college rather than what sport they will play.

"Four years from now, I do not see myself playing many sports at all," Lewis said.

"In four years, I will be finished with football unless I redshirt as a freshman, and I could see myself possibly student-coaching during my fifth year at Valpo because it takes four and a half years to graduate with an Engineering degree. Athletically, I can see myself playing intramural leagues for fun, but not competitively once Valpo football is complete," Laipple said.

Track phenom Kati Beutler signed a letter of intent to compete in Track and Field for Bethel College, located in Mishawaka, Indiana. Nicknamed the Pilots, Bethel is a small Christian school with just over 2,000 total students. Beutler, who set the school record for long jump, will compete in the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 4x100 meter relay, and the long jump while a Pilot at Bethel. Beutler is looking forward to many things during her track career at Bethel.

"I am excited to see my times improve, and I am looking forward to working with some really good coaches at Bethel," Beutler said.

Beutler, who was recruited for her talent in track by many schools, chose Bethel because of the coaches and her future teammates.

"They are all friendly people and stress the importance of the team concept. The sprint coach was an Olympian. I am also excited to meet my teammates and make new friendships," Beutler said.

Beutler intends to participate in track for all four years she attends Bethel.

"I plan to run all four years in college. As for after college, I am not sure if I will continue athletics," Beutler said.

Indiana University at Bloomington is home to 38,000 students. Many high school students wish to enroll at the college; however a few receive full scholarship. Many know this as the Wells Scholarship; however Indiana University also selects individuals throughout the state that have shown athletic superiority for a full scholarship.

Kyle Leiendecker (12) has signed with Indiana University for his excellence in baseball. Besides the paid tuition to Indiana University, there are several other reasons why he wanted to attend.

"I.U. is really close to home. When I have a game my parents can come and watch. My brother is close at Butler, so he could come and watch. Also, it is a good program with new coaches from Ohio." Leiendecker said.

Indiana University is less known for baseball, but the baseball program won the Big Ten Conference in 1996. Coach Bob Morgan recently resigned, and since then the assistant coach of Miami University Ohio, Tracy Smith, has taken his position as the new coach. Minor and Major League Baseball are the goals of Kyle in his baseball career. However, Kyle has a career plan without baseball if he can not advance beyond college, in the field of dentistry.

"If I don't go the major league draft in 3 years, I plan to go to dentistry school. I hope to be in minor league baseball four years from now," Leiendecker said.

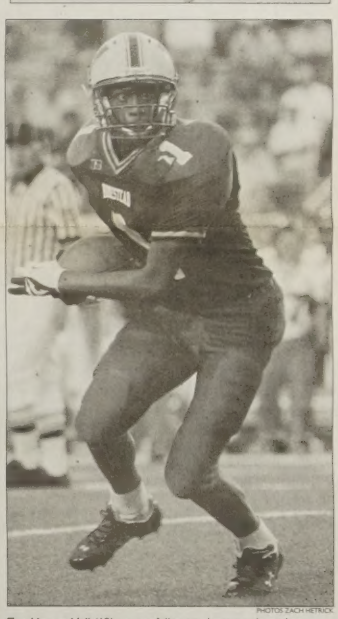
In West Lafayette, Indiana is Purdue University, the traditional and by no means inferior rival of Indiana University. Erich Johnston signed with Purdue University with a golf scholarship and will only need to pay about 70% of his tuition. Next year, Erich will have to adapt to the differences between college and high school golf.

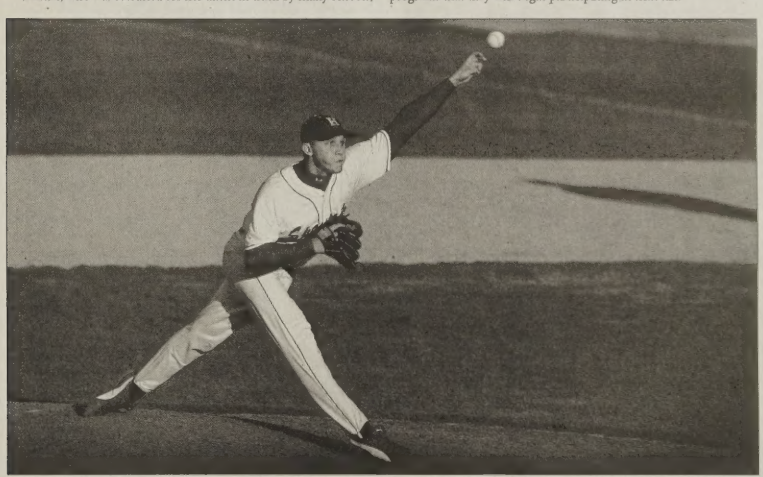
"Golf is the longest season in college because there is a fall and spring season. All of the school year I will have to practice golf, and through the summer I have to participate in amateur tournaments." Johnston said.

The Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex at Purdue University is ranked the 11th best college golf course by Golf Digest magazine. The course has also previously held the NCAA Golf championship, and will again in Spring 2008. These were one of the many reasons why Johnston chose Purdue University over other colleges. Most high school athletes who continue through college plan on trying to enter the sport at a professional level. However, they also must choose a career path as a back-up plan.

"In four years, I plan on trying to qualifying for the PGA tour, and play professional golf. I haven't decided yet what major I want to study in college, or the career I would like to go in other than golf." Johnston said.

Seniors Katie Veith, Hunter Hall, Jordan Wise, and Amy Recht, as well of others, have also recently signed with different collegiate programs that they will begin participating in next fall.





PHOTOS: ZACH HETRICK

Top: Hunter Hall (12) successfully completes a pole vault attempt at last year's State finals. Hall will join the Virginia Tech track program this fall and recently advanced through regionals this year to his third-straight State Finals appearance. Above: Desmond Lewis (12) runs the ball during the Spartan's game against Huntington North. Lewis helped lead the Spartans to the sectional crown last fall and will play at Valparaiso next fall. Left: Kyle Leiendecker (12) pitches in a recent game. Leiendecker will play Division I baseball next season for the Hoosiers from Indiana University. His brother, Grant Leiendecker (06), is presently on the basketball team at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Track coaches voted tops in NHC

Shenfeld, Wyss, Baker named Coaches of the Year following conference victories

By Erin Quinn
Writer

The head coaches of the boys and girls track programs walked away from the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) meet with all of the possible awards. In a rare combination of events, Dick Shenfeld and co head coaches Sara Wyss and Andrea Baker led their teams to victory on their home turf, then were all awarded the honor of NHC Coach of the Year.

"We're both running around the same track, so it's always neat when both the teams' coaches win from this school," Shenfeld said.

The award is voted on on the night of the meet, after all of the events have been completed. The head coach of each team from every school reports to the press box and casts his vote before leaving the meet. Shenfeld admits that it is hard not to be awarded the honor if your team wins the meet by more than 30 points, as both the boys and girls teams did this year. After coaching the track team for his 38th year, he believes that the award is a nice honor, even with his long history of winning the award.

"It's nice to know that the other coaches from the conference are the ones voting and that they think you deserve it," Shenfeld said.

Despite all of his experience, Shenfeld regards his team's season as unique up to this point.

"It's the first season that I've had where we won everything up until sectionals. We won Lime City, we upset Northrop, we were Conference champions...we were pretty much undefeated the whole season until we lost at sectionals," Shenfeld said. "From that standpoint [the season] has gone well."

> *"The NHC has excellent track coaches and any one of them could have received the honor. It is a humbling experience to be selected by your coaching peers."*
>
> **Sara Wyss**
> Track Coach

The head coach attributes much of the team's success to the members of the team.

"I knew going into the season that we had good guys back, but we had a lot of new people that helped us as well," Shenfeld said.

Co-coaches Sara Wyss and Andrea Baker also left the meet with a team victory as well as the shared Coach of the Year honor.

"When selecting a Coach of the Year, I believe others look to the leadership that is provided to the teams that they coach as well as getting the student athletes to rise above the student perception of the mental and physical limits to become the best possible athlete they can be," Wyss said. "The NHC has excellent track coaches and any one of them could have received the honor. It is a humbling experience to be selected by your coaching peers."

Wyss acknowledged that inclement weather throughout the season made various aspects of the sport more difficult.

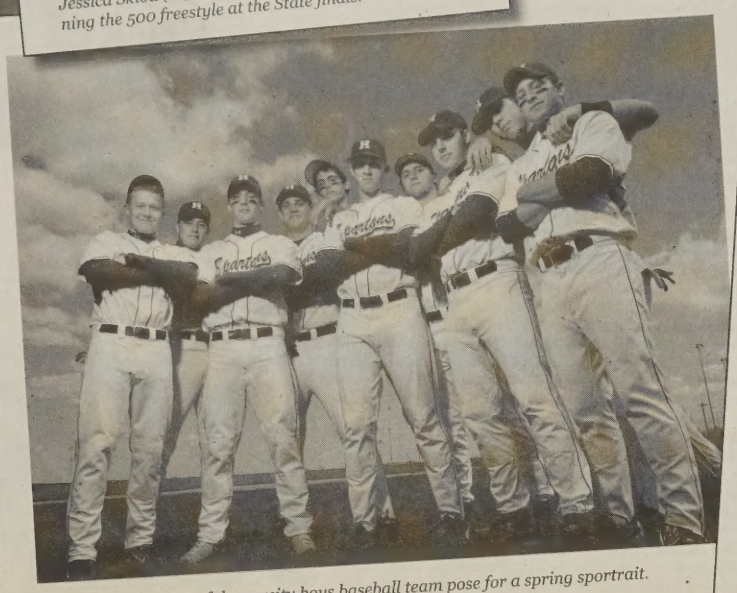
However, her athletes managed to overcome the inconvenience of canceled meets and missed practices, and the coaches prepared the line ups for the conference and sectional teams as best as they could.

"Our goals this season were to defend our NHC title and to win the sectional meet. We have been able to accomplish both; now we set our sights on the State Finals on June 2," Wyss said.

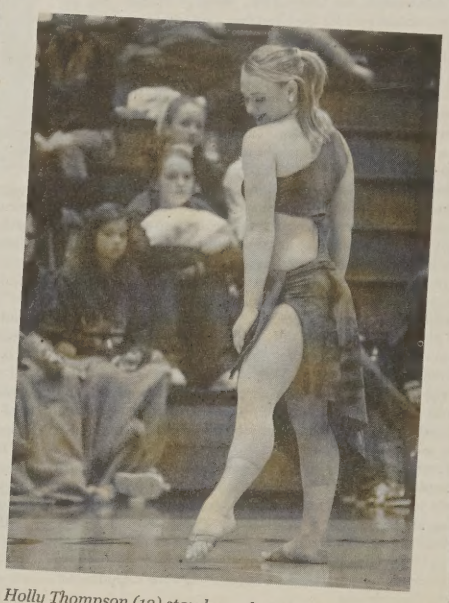
Head coaches Shenfeld, Wyss, and Baker took their personal awards of NHC Coaches of the Year in stride and said they are looking forward to taking five athletes, four seniors and one junior, down the IHSAA State Finals next weekend, June 2, for the boys meet and the following Saturday for the girls meet.

Jessica Skiba (12) hugs Kelly Veenstra (12) after winning the 500 freestyle at the State finals.

Varsity football team members celebrate after their victory against arch-rival Snider.



The senior members of the varsity boys baseball team pose for a spring sportrait.



Holly Thompson (12) stands ready to begin her first place performance in the state solo competitions.

Jacob Weide (10) goes up for a basket during one of the Spartans' home games this past season.

memories

After numerous tests of athletic ability, 'headline' memories revisited with the help of Zach Hetrick's photos

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

On a sprawling fence just past the senior parking lot rest hundreds of paper cups, each with a plotted location all their own, together spelling out words that have defined Spartan athletics all year. Their creators are rarely seen—one can only assume the credit lies with passionate mothers—but their message is always loud and clear, proclaiming the next morning's locker talk.

Numerous Spartan sports made headlines this year, none more so than the football team's best regular season in a decade and subsequent upset of the Snider Panthers in the sectional championship. Fans in attendance will not soon forget the Spartan defense's stirring goal line stand in the waning moments to preserve a 21-16 win. The win was long overdue for a team that had not beaten the Panthers since 1998.

Then there is the perennial dynasty of the Spartan swim teams, which made yet another trip to the State Finals in February. But fourth and fifth place team finishes by the boys and girls teams, respectively, were overshadowed by one Spartan swimmer who accomplished something that hadn't been done in eight years: win. A feat four years in the making, Jessica Skiba (12) outlasted Alexandra Young of Carmel to win the 500 freestyle. But perhaps the greatest scene of all was Skiba's reunion with her father and mentor, who was able to be in attendance after being hospitalized with a serious medical condition just days before the State finals.

And then there is the emotional story of Holly Thompson (12) and her individual victory in the senior solo competition at the Dance State Finals. Following a personally tumultuous year, Thompson capped off a remarkable tenure with the varsity dance team by tearfully accepting the first-place trophy. Thompson danced to 'The Real Me' because she said it captured the positive changes she underwent, and finally, she said, "I have shown people the real me."

Ten returning seniors have spelled a strong campaign thus far for Coach Keith Potter and the baseball team, who won ten games in a row at one point to run their record to 19-4 overall record and garner a sixth place ranking in the IHSAA polls. But the team vehemently denies that sixth in the state is good enough; they vow they won't be content until they hoist a State finals trophy at Victory Field in Indianapolis on June 16.

The boys and girls basketball teams' seasons were ended in the sectional tournament, but headlines were at a premium throughout their runs. The girls rallied from a poor start to post a 13-11 overall record, the first winning season in Coach Rod Parker's tenure as head coach, but the late run was ended with a loss to third-ranked South Side in the sectional tournament.

A promising 5-2 start for the boys soon turned into the first losing season since 2003-2004, as the team finished 9-12 overall and lost to Snider in the first round of the sectional tournament. Head Coach Chris Johnson, however, labeled the season his most enjoyable to coach, saying he was impressed with the way his players "came and competed each and every day" in practice and during games.

Individual accolades littered the Spartan athletic scene all season, and numerous athletes were rewarded for their accomplishments with scholarships from prominent universities. Pole-vaulters Katie Veith (12) and Hunter Hall (12) signed with Texas Tech and Virginia Tech, respectively, while varsity baseball standout Kyle Leiendecker (12) received a scholarship offer from Indiana University, one year after his brother Grant Leiendecker ('06) signed to play basketball with a Butler team that made the Sweet Sixteen in March's NCAA tournament.

Kati Beutler (12), owner of the long jump record, signed with Bethel last month, and fellow teammate Stephanie Mitchell (12) will also participate in track and field for Western Michigan. Jon Lehman (12) and Jordan Wise (12), standouts from the sectional champion football team, both signed with a team from Saint Francis that is consistently a national powerhouse in the NAIA conference.

For three months this summer, the fence that proudly displays many an athletic accomplishment will remain bare. But come fall, it will once again boldly make known individual and team accomplishments alike. And though the seniors who watched this fence take shape for four years will move on, the memories they helped form will remain embedded in the chain links that hold it together.